



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Thursday 27 November 2025 (Session 6)

### International Relations: Overview of activity, February 2024-31 August 2025

#### Executive summary

1. The following report contains an overview of activity of the International Relations Office during the period between 1 February 2024 and 31 August 2025. No SPCB decision is being sought.

#### Issues and options

##### Inward visits

2. **Annexe A** contains a full list of inward visits in the period of this report.
3. During the period 1 February 2024 to 31 August 2025, IRO delivered 81 inward visits. 13 of these were by Speakers of other legislatures, 13 by Ambassadors, 11 by Consuls/Consuls General, 16 by Parliamentarians and 28 by others, including officials from other legislatures.

Month	Total Inwards	Speakers (also includes Deputies)	Ambassadors	Consuls/Consuls General	Parliamentarians	Other (Officials, etc.)
Totals	81	13	13	11	16	28
Change from previous 18 months	-18	+2	-6	+3	-7	-10

4. This was a decrease of 18 visits from the previous 18 months. One of the reasons for the decrease in total visits was the low number of Ambassadors that visited the Scottish Parliament during this period. Ambassadors usually visit the Scottish Parliament once during their tenure; however, this of course depends on business needs for visiting Scotland.

## Outward visits

5. **Annexe B** contains a full list of the outward visits in the period of this report.
6. During the period 1 February 2024 to 31 August 2025, IRO delivered 19 outward visits. Four of these were led by the Presiding Officer or a Deputy Presiding Officer, two just included Members, seven were in connection to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), three were in connection to the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) and three included officials only. This was a decrease of four from the previous 18 months.

Month	Total Outwards	PO/DPO	MSPs	CPA	BIPA	Officials
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Change from previous 18 months</b>	-4	No change	1	3	-4	-3

7. One of the main reasons for the decrease was a reduction of BIPA meetings and plenary sessions due to the elections taking place in both the UK and Irish Parliaments.

## Bilateral relations

8. IRO supports both inward and outward visits in order to deliver the International Strategy. Naturally, the most substantial engagement tends to be with those legislatures with which the Parliament has a historic relationship, those who proactively seek to engage with us, those that have similar size and characteristics, and those where there is potential for mutual benefit from working together.
9. As an example, the Scottish Parliament has strong relationships with the National Assembly of Québec. In June 2024 Mme Nathalie Roy MNA, President of the National Assembly of Québec, led a delegation to the Scottish Parliament. The delegation met with the Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers, Members and officials to discuss the role and functions of the Parliamentary Bureau, the work of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group, cyber security and barriers to women entering politics.
10. Following this, in July 2025 the Scottish Parliament was invited to attend, as international guests, the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference hosted by the National Assembly of Québec. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP attended the conference on behalf of the Scottish Parliament and were able to further develop this bilateral relationship. [Read the report of the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region CWP Conference.](#)

11. Similarly, as a result of focusing on geographical areas and developing bilateral relationships, in April 2025 Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP led a delegation to visit the Faroese Parliament. Discussions included salmon farming, crime, labour market and the running of the parliaments. These were follow on discussions from previous meetings with Faroese delegations. In 2023 the Faroese Presidium visited the Scottish Parliament and met with the Presiding Officer, Members and officials; and in October 2023 Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP met with Johan Dahl, Second Deputy Speaker of the Faroese Parliament at the Nordic Council Session in Oslo. [Read the report of the visit to the Løgting.](#)

## **Multilateral relations**

### **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI)**

12. In addition to inward and outward visits, IRO has been focusing on developing strategic relationships with organisations such as the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). By working with these organisations, which seek to strengthen democratic institutions around the world, the Parliament can engage in mutual learning with a wide range of parliaments and can provide continuous professional development opportunities for both Members and officials, one of the key elements of the International Strategy.
13. For example, in March 2024 the WFD sponsored a Post-Legislative Scrutiny focused visit in Nepal, which was attended by Martin Whitfield MSP. [Read the report of the Post-Legislative Scrutiny visit in Nepal.](#)

### **British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)**

14. The Scottish Parliament was admitted to the BIPA in February 2001 and has five full places and four associate places on the Assembly. IRO acts as the secretariat to the Scottish delegation and support MSPs in their work. In addition to bi-annual plenary meetings, Members participate in five committees which meet periodically throughout the year.
15. During the reporting period however, there was only one plenary session and two meetings of the Steering Committee. This hiatus in activity was due to the UK and Irish General Elections and the subsequent delay in nominating their respective memberships.
16. In Session 6, the delegation to BIPA is led by Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP. The remaining four Full Members comprise of Emma Harper MSP, Tess White MSP, Pauline McNeill MSP and Ross Greer MSP.

### **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)**

17. Since 2000 the Scottish Parliament has been a member of the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#). The Scottish Parliament (known as the Scotland Branch) is a member of the [British Islands and Mediterranean Region](#) (BIMR).

## Governance

18. The Presiding Officer is the President of the Scotland Branch and all MSPs are members of the CPA Scotland Branch.
19. The CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee in 2024/25 comprised Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP.

## Networks

20. The Scotland Branch is a very active member of the CPA and during the period 1 February 2024 to 31 August 2025 had regional representatives on three of four of the CPA Networks:
  - Jeremy Balfour MSP was the BIMR Champion on the [Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities](#) (CPwD) Network
  - Sarah Boyack MSP was the BIMR representative on the [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians](#) (CWP) Network
  - Stuart McMillan MSP was one of the BIMR representatives on the [CPA International Executive Committee](#)
21. Also, since September 2024, Roz McCall MSP has been the Scottish Branch representative on the BIMR CWP Network Steering Committee together with Sarah Boyack MSP.
22. In June 2025 Jamie Greene MSP co-founded the CPA BIMR LGBT+ Network.
23. IRO started collecting statistics on CPA opportunities in September 2024. During the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 the Scottish Branch network representatives took part in 19 network meetings and events.

## CPA activities

24. The CPA offers Members and officials various opportunities to get involved in their work including attending conferences, Election Observation Missions, webinars and training courses. The activities offer attendees professional development and knowledge exchange opportunities to enhance their skills as parliamentarians and share best practice.
25. From 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025, 25 opportunities were presented to the Scotland Branch. Of these, the Scotland Branch Executive Committee offered 18 opportunities to Members and/or officials. As a result, 37 Members and one official took part in opportunities during this period (some opportunities offered multiple spaces).
26. See a list of CPA activities during the period 1 February 2024 to 31 August 2025 in **Annexe C**.

## **Outcomes**

27. IRO is keen to ensure that the benefit realised from both inward and outward visits is fed back into Parliament to ensure wider learning across the Parliament. All Members going on outwards are asked to provide feedback within three weeks of returning from an outward and again six months later. This enables IRO to understand what learning has been implemented across Parliament. Inward visits by delegations of parliamentarians and officials are sent an evaluation form to complete after their visit. Some examples of feedback from both inward and outward visits are provided below.

28. In June 2024 the States Greffier of Guernsey visited the Parliament to learn about how we support the Presiding Officer and said:

“The series of meetings were very well put together and I left much better informed about the workings of the Scottish Parliament and support for the Presiding Officer and have taken away many things to reflect on in respect of my own parliament. It was interparliamentary exchange at its best.”

29. In April 2024 the Presiding Officer, Maurice Golden MSP, and Evelyn Tweed MSP visited the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and New York City as part of Tartan Week. Maurice Golden said:

“The study tour helped me develop both professionally and as a parliamentarian. It was incredibly useful to meet experts in a range of fields from climate change to citizen engagement in addition to the Scottish diaspora and serving parliamentarians. I have utilised the information gleaned from several meetings in my role on the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee...”

30. In June 2025 Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jamie Greene MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP attended the 54<sup>th</sup> British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Cardiff, Wales. Stuart McMillan said:

“Attending the regional conference in person is always important, not only because of the official programme but also because of the additional conversations that take place engaging and learning about other parliamentary systems....”

31. In July 2025 Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP attended the 61<sup>st</sup> Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Québec, Canada. Pam Duncan-Glancy said:

“I learned so much! From practical tools to managing the job, to the commonalties of issues and concerns across the globe. I also learned a lot about the work and the huge value of the CPA. I will update my group on this experience, including by sharing these reflections.”

## **Governance**

32. IRO is responsible for the development and implementation of the International Strategy. While it facilitates most inward, outward and virtual international visits, it is not involved in every such engagement e.g. those undertaken by committees as part of an inquiry or by MSPs on cross party groups. This paper therefore does not reflect all international activity taking place, only that supported by the IRO.
33. The current International Strategy built on the experiences and practices applied by the Parliament in developing its international relations approach. The continued link of the Strategy to the Parliament's Strategic and Delivery plans and the focus on the procedural, corporate and policy interests of the institution allows the IRO to better plan activity, provides a more efficient link to resources and secures practical benefits.

## **Resource implications**

34. There are no resource implications arising from this paper.

## **Publication Scheme**

35. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

## **Decision**

36. No decisions are required. The SPCB is invited to note the information provided in this paper.

**International Relations Office**

November 2025

## **Annexe A: Inward Visits: 1 February 2024-31 August 2025**

- Monday 19 February 2024: British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee D, meeting with Members.
- Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 February 2024: President of the State Parliament of Lower Saxony, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers Liam McArthur MSP and Annabelle Ewing MSP, Members, and officials.
- Tuesday 27 February 2024: Consul General of Romania, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 February 2024: Presidium of the Parliament of Greenland, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP, Members, and officials.
- Thursday 7 March 2024: John Smith Trust Fellows, meeting with Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP, Members and officials.
- Thursday 21 March 2024: Students from George Washington University, meeting with Members and officials.
- Wednesday 27 March 2024: Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Albania, meeting with Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP and officials.
- Tuesday 16 April 2024: Ambassador of the European Union, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Monday 22 April 2024: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, meeting with Presiding Officer and officials.
- Tuesday 30 April: Ambassador of Brazil, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Tuesday 20 April and Wednesday 1 May 2024: Officials from the London Assembly, meeting with officials.
- Thursday 9 May 2024: International Women's Day Event Participants, meeting with Members.
- Thursday 23 May 2024: Ambassador of Denmark, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 30 May 2024: Former President of the National Assembly of Quebec, meeting with Presiding Officer and officials.
- Thursday 30 May 2024: Members of the Youth Parliament of Pakistan, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 5 June 2024: Members of the Budgetary Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 12 June 2024: Clerk Assistant-Procedure of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 June 2024: Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers Annabelle Ewing MSP and Liam McArthur MSP, Members, and officials.
- Tuesday 18 June 2024: Senators of the Parliament of Poland, tour of Parliament.
- Tuesday 18 June 2024: Director-General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, meeting with officials.

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

- Tuesday 18 June 2024: Head of Scottish Government Office, Washington D.C., meeting with officials.
- Friday 21 June 2024: US Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, meeting with officials
- Tuesday 25 June 2024: Greffier to the States of Guernsey, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 26 June 2024: Consul General of the United States of America, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Wednesday 7 August 2024: Former Senator of California and Member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 17 September 2024: Deputy Head of Mission of Austria, meeting with Members and officials.
- Tuesday 17 September 2024: Ambassador of Japan, meeting with Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP.
- Tuesday 17 September 2024: Officials from the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Pakistan, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 24 September 2024: Consul General of India, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Wednesday 25 September 2024: Consul General of the United States of America, meeting with Presiding Officer and officials.
- Tuesday 29 October 2024: Member of the National Assembly of Hungary, tour of Parliament.
- Tuesday 5 November 2024: British Council in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Debating Chamber tickets.
- Thursday 7 November 2024: Member of the Parliament of Canada, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Monday 11 November 2024: Presiding Officer of House of Assembly of Tobago, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Tuesday 19 November 2024: Officials of the National Assembly of Vietnam, meeting with officials.
- Thursday 21 November 2024: Students of Duke University, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 4 December 2024: Members of the Committee on Procedures of the Northern Ireland Assembly, meeting with the Presiding Officer, Members and officials.
- Wednesday 4 December 2024: Members of the Scottish Government Europe Division, tour of Parliament.
- Wednesday 18 December 2024: Officials from the Parliament of Albania, meeting with officials.
- Thursday 9 January 2025: Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Parliament of India, meeting with Presiding Officer and Members.
- Wednesday 15 January 2025: Consul General of Türkiye, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 30 January 2025: Members of the London Diplomatic Science Club, tour of Parliament.
- Thursday 30 January 2025: Parliamentary Interns from the John Smith Centre, meeting with Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP, Members and officials.



## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

- Thursday 30 January 2025: Member of the United States Congress, tour of Parliament.
- Wednesday 19 February 2025: Consul General of Spain, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 20 February 2025: Ambassador of Switzerland, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Wednesday 26 February 2025: Consul General of Japan, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 27 February 2025: John Smith Trust Fellows, meeting with Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP, Members and officials.
- Tuesday 4 March 2025: Children's and Education Committee of the Parliament of Denmark, meeting with Members.
- Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 March 2025: Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands, meeting with officials.
- Sunday 16 to Tuesday 18 March 2025: Conference for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Irish Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, hosted by the Presiding Officer at Parliament.
- Thursday 20 March 2025: Head of Representation of the Parliament of the Faroe Islands, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 1 April 2025: Committee on Science and Culture from the State Parliament of Lower Saxony, meeting with Members.
- Thursday 24 April 2025: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers Liam McArthur MSP and Annabelle Ewing MSP, Members, and officials.
- Tuesday 6 May 2025: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Queensland, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers Liam McArthur MSP and Annabelle Ewing MSP, Members, and officials.
- Thursday 8 May 2025: Consul General of Japan, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Friday 9 May 2025: Consul of China, tour of Parliament.
- Tuesday 13 May 2025: Consul of China, meeting with officials.
- Wednesday 14 May 2025: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 15 May 2025: Parliamentary Caucus on Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Parliament of Zambia, meeting with Members and officials.
- Thursday 15 May 2025: President of the Senate of the Parliament of Australia, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP, Members and officials.
- Thursday 15 May 2025: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, meeting with Presiding Officer and Members.
- Friday 23 May 2025: Defence Committee of the National Assembly of Thailand, tour of Parliament.
- Tuesday 27 May 2025: Mayoral Delegation from Ukraine, tour of Parliament.
- Wednesday 28 May 2025: Ambassador of Japan, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Tuesday 10 June 2025: Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, tour of Parliament.
- Wednesday 11 June 2025: Deputy Director General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, meeting with officials.

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

- Wednesday 11 June 2025: Ambassador of the European Union, Ambassador of Bulgaria and Ambassador of Slovenia, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 12 June 2025: Mayoral Delegation from the Netherlands, tour of Parliament.
- Friday 13 June 2025: Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina, tour of Parliament.
- Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June 2025: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, meeting with Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officers Annabelle Ewing MSP and Liam McArthur MSP, Members, and officials.
- Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June 2025: Deputy Chief Executive of the Parliament of New Zealand, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 24 June 2025: Member of the Parliament of Canada, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 24 June 2025: Consul General of China, meeting with Presiding Officer.
- Thursday 26 June 2025: Officials from the Foreign Development and Commonwealth Office, meeting with officials.
- Tuesday 1 July 2025: Serjeant-at-Arms of the Parliament of New Zealand, meeting with officials
- Friday 4 July 2025: Budget Committee of the State Parliament of Hesse, tour of Parliament.
- Thursday 10 July 2025: Member of the Parliament of New South Wales, tour of Parliament.
- Friday 11 July 2025: Member of the Parliament of New South Wales, tour of Parliament.
- Wednesday 16 July 2025: President of the Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales, meeting with Members and officials.
- Tuesday 26 August 2025: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, tour of Parliament.

## **Annexe B: Outward visits 1 February 2024-31 August 2025**

- Sunday 3 March - Monday 4 March 2024: British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) Steering Committee in Cheshire, England. Attended by Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP.
- Wednesday 6 March to Saturday 9 March 2024: 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Malta. Attended by Sarah Boyack MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP. [Read the report of the 10th British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference.](#)
- Sunday 10 March to Sunday 17 March 2024: Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) sponsored Post-Legislative Scrutiny visit in Nepal. Attended by Martin Whitfield MSP. [Read the report of the Post-Legislative Scrutiny visit in Nepal.](#)
- Thursday 4 April to Friday 12 April 2024: Presiding Officer visit to USA and Canada for Tartan Week. Attended by the Presiding Officer, Evelyn Tweed MSP, Maurice Golden MSP and Michael Marra MSP. [Read the report of the Presiding Officer's Visit to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and New York City.](#)
- Sunday 14 April to Tuesday 16 April 2024: 66th Plenary Session of the BIPA in County Wicklow, Ireland. Attended by Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP, Ross Greer MSP, Emma Harper MSP, Pauline McNeill MSP and Tess White MSP.
- Sunday 18 May to Sunday 25 May 2024: 53rd CPA BIMR Conference in St Helena. Attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the 53rd British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference.](#)
- Monday 10 – Friday 14 June 2024: Officials attended the CPA Advanced Residency Programme for Leadership, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Wednesday 13 June 2024: Officials visited the Parliament of Sweden.
- Thursday 25 July 2024: Official attended the annual Northern Irish Assembly, Welsh Senedd and Scottish Parliament International Relations Offices' trilateral meeting in Cardiff, Wales.
- Monday 7 – Friday 11 October 2024: Official attended the 2024 Parliamentary Officers' Study Programme (POSP) in Ottawa, Canada
- Tuesday 15 October to Sunday 20 October 2024: Arctic Circle Assembly and Althing Visit in Reykjavik, Iceland. Attended by the Presiding Officer, Monica Lennon MSP, and Ben Macpherson MSP. [Read the report of the visit to the Arctic Circle Assembly and Althing.](#)
- Monday 28 October to Thursday 31 October 2024: 76th Nordic Council Session in Reykjavik, Iceland. Attended by Claire Baker MSP, Ariane Burgess MSP, and Kenneth Gibson MSP. [Read the report of the visit to the 76th session of the Nordic Council.](#)
- Saturday 2 November to Saturday 9 November 2024: 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney, Australia. Attended by Jeremy Balfour

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.](#)

- Thursday 3 April to Thursday 10 April 2025: USA and Canada: Attended by Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP, Michelle Thomson MSP and Alexander Stewart MSP. Delegation held bilateral discussions in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and participated in the annual 'Tartan Week' events in New York City.
- Monday 7 April to Wednesday 9 April 2025: Parliamentary Visit to the Parliament of the Faroe Islands (Løgting) in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. Attended by Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP, Audrey Nicoll MSP, and Rhoda Grant MSP. [Read the report of the visit to the Løgting.](#)
- Monday 12 May- Tuesday 13 May 2025: CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting in London. Attended by Stuart McMillan MSP.
- Tuesday 17 June to Thursday 19 June 2025: 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) British Islands and Mediterranean Regional (BIMR) Conference in Wales. Attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jamie Greene MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the visit to the 54th British Islands and Mediterranean regional conference.](#)
- Sunday 13 July – Monday 14 July 2025: BIPA Steering Committee in Dublin, Ireland. Attended by Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP
- Sunday 20 July to Thursday 24 July 2025: 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference in Québec City, Canada. Attended by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP. [Read the report of the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region CWP Conference.](#)

## Annexe C: CPA activities 1 February 2024-31 August 2025

### February 2024

- On 19 February Sarah Boyack MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP hosted a group session bringing together a group of young women to discuss the issues which are seen as the main challenges faced by young women in Scotland today. [Read the report of the CWP Scotland Branch Group Session.](#)

### March 2024

- Wednesday 6 March to Saturday 9 March 2024: 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Malta. Attended by Sarah Boyack MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP. [Read the report of the 10th British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference](#)
- Stuart McMillan MSP lodged the motion [Celebrating Commonwealth Day 2024](#) on behalf of the Branch Executive Committee.
- At the end of March Jeremy Balfour MSP attended a virtual CPWD Regional Champions Meeting.
- Neil Stewart's, Chamber Office, article [Building Parliamentary Networks to promote good mental health](#) was published in the Parliamentarian.

### April 2024

- Nicola Hudson, SPICe, took part in a workshop at the Parliament of Malawi on budgetary scrutiny. The workshop aimed to upskill their Members in their understanding of the process and their staff in how they can support Members during it.

### May 2024

- 7-9 May Stuart McMillan MSP took part in online meetings of the ExCo.
- Sarah Boyack MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP attended a virtual BIMR CWP Steering Committee meeting.
- Sunday 18 May to Sunday 25 May 2024: 53rd CPA BIMR Conference in St Helena. Attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the 53rd British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference](#).

### June 2024

- 9-15 June Hannah Gunn, Official Report, and Emma Phelan, BIT, attended the Advanced Residency Programme for Leadership in Parliament in Columbo, Sri Lanka. This was the first CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency programme for Parliamentary Clerks and officials. [Read CPA's press release on the programme.](#)

*"It was a privilege to take part in the Inaugural Leadership in Parliament Programme for Parliament Clerks & Officials run by the CPA. The course enriched me with new skills and insights, and engaging with fellow delegates*

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

*was enlightening. Hearing a bit about different cultures through anecdotes from their parliaments added a vivid dimension to our learning. This network of parliament clerks and officials remains an ongoing community for collaboration and support beyond the programme's conclusion.”- Emma Phelan*

*“Before taking part in the programme, I could never have imagined how much I'd gain from it. As well as the activities that we took part in—which were excellent—the chance to meet colleagues from legislatures across the Commonwealth, share experiences and build relationships with them was invaluable. I have come back with more confidence and new skills, and I have already started sharing ideas with colleagues.”- Hannah Gunn*

### July 2024

- Sarah Boyack MSP attended a virtual BIMR CWP Steering Committee meeting. During the meeting she was elected Vice Chair of the CWP BIMR Steering Committee, and due to a vacancy in the Chair position, as Acting Chair. She will hold this post until the next BIMR Conference, when the election for the next Chair will take place.

### August 2024

- Jamie Greene MSP joined the BIMR LGBTI network.

### September 2024

- The Presiding Officer chaired the Scotland Branch Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker was Jarvis Matiya, Deputy Secretary General of the CPA.
- Jeremy Balfour MSP took part in the first BIMR Digital transformation working group meeting.
- Jamie Greene MSP attended the first BIMR LGBT+ Network steering committee meeting.

### October 2024

- Roz McCall MSP was elected as the second Scotland Branch representative on the BIMR CWP Steering Committee for 2024 to 2025.
- Jamie Greene MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to Monserrat. [Read the Montserrat General Election October 2024, CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission Final Report](#)

### November 2024

- Saturday 2 November to Saturday 9 November 2024: 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney, Australia. Attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.](#)
- On their return, the delegates who attended the 67<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney, Australia held a drop-in session to inform members and staff of the discussion points from the workshops and meetings they attended.
- Sarah Boyack MSP and Roz McCall MSP attended a virtual BIMR CWP Steering Committee meeting.

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

- Karen Adam MSP, Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee took part in a video for the CPA Parliamentary Academy's online course titled "[Human Rights: A Parliament's Role](#)".

### December 2024

- During the week of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Jeremy Balfour MSP, as BIMR Champion on the CPwD Network, chaired the BIMR webinar "What are the barriers for disabled people standing for elected office and how can they be overcome?" [Read a statement on the CPA BIMR Webinar on Barriers for Parliamentarians with Disabilities](#).
- Stuart McMillan MSP and Sarah Boyack MSP attended the webinar "Feedback on LGBT+ inclusion discussions at CHOGM and CPC" hosted by CPA HQ. [Read the statement on the CPA BIMR Webinar on LGBT+ Inclusion and Network](#).

### January 2025

- Sarah Boyack MSP chaired the CWP Webinar on "Gender Quota Mechanisms in Parliaments". It was also attended by Beatrice Wishart MSP and Rhoda Grant MSP. [Read the article about the webinar titled 'Our work is not finished. So let's get on with it!'](#).

### February 2025

- Sarah Boyack MSP, as Acting Chair of the BIMR, attended the CWP International Steering Committee meeting.

### March 2025

- The Scottish Parliament hosted a three day Clerk development programme for the Assistant Clerk of the Cayman Islands.
- 16 to 18 March, the Scottish Parliament hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> CWP BIMR Conference. The conference was attended by 40 parliamentarians and officials from 12 branches of the region. Sessions included discussions on how to promote inclusiveness in parliaments, overcoming the barriers to women standing for election from the lens of ensuring a work-life balance, and how to retain women working in politics. The conference contained a mixture of more formal and interactive sessions and Parliament received great feedback from the delegates. [Read the CPA BIMR's report from the conference](#).
- Liam McArthur MSP lodged a motion titled [Celebrating Commonwealth Day 2025](#).

### April 2025

- Evelyn Tweed MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to the Cayman Islands. [Read the report from the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission to the Cayman Islands April 2025](#).

### May 2025

- Stuart McMillan MSP took part in the mid year meeting of the CPA International Executive Committee in London.

## REFERENCE: SPCB (2025) - Paper 69

- Clare Haughey MSP, Douglas Ross MSP and Paul Sweeney MSP took part in Election Observation Mission training.

### June 2025

- Tuesday 17 June to Thursday 19 June 2025: 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) British Islands and Mediterranean Regional (BIMR) Conference in Wales. Attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jamie Greene MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP. [Read the report of the visit to the 54th British Islands and Mediterranean regional conference.](#)
- 14 – 20 June 2025: Rhoda Grant MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to Guernsey. [Read the preliminary statement from the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission to Guernsey.](#)
- 9-11 June 2025: Douglas Ross MSP took part in a Post- Election Seminar in Turks and Caicos. [Read the press release on the Post- Election Seminar in Turks and Caicos.](#)

### July 2025

- Sunday 20 July to Thursday 24 July 2025: 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference in Québec City, Canada. Attended by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP. [Read the report of the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region CWP Conference.](#)