ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS THROUGH INWARD VISIT PROGRAMMES

1. The purpose of this paper is to determine if Members of the CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee are content with their involvement with inward visit programmes with Parliamentarians from Parliaments with CPA Branches.

2. It is the responsibility of the UK & International Relations Office (UKIRO) to arrange inward visit programmes in accordance with the Scottish Parliament’s International Strategy. Where programmes involve parliamentarians from other CPA Branches, by convention, Members of the Branch Executive are usually invited to host a lunch and/or dinner.

3. A list of recent occasions whereby Members of the CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee have been called upon to host/attend lunches and/or dinners is noted below. This list covers 9 visits since the beginning of 2013.

- 23 January 2013 – Lunch for members of the Canada/UK Interparliamentary Association
- 19 March 2013 – Lunch for Members of National Assembly of Malawi
- 28 March 2013 – Lunch for the Deputy Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Dr Mark Robinson MP
- 17 April 2013 – Lunch for Mr Greg Aplin MP, Parliament of New South Wales
- 1 May 2013 – Dinner for Steve Rodan MHK, Speaker of the House of Keys
- 14 May 2013 – Lunch for the Deputy President of the Parliament of New South Wales, Jenny Gardiner
- 12 June 2013 – Invited to attend lunch hosted by the DPO for the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, the Hon Fiona Simpson MP
- 20 June 2013 – Invited to host a lunch for Members and officials of the Parliament of Uganda
- 25 June 2013 – Lunch for Louise Upston MP, Member of the New Zealand Parliament and Senior Government Whip
4. The requirement to attend these lunches, given the volume of inward visits from CPA member parliaments, can be a significant commitment for Members of the Branch. In addition, where Presiding Officers are involved this can also be a considerable commitment for Presiding Officers. It would therefore be useful if Members could discuss the following:

- Whether Members are content that the current arrangements of providing hospitality to representatives from CPA member Parliament’s remains appropriate.

- Whether Members would wish that hospitality should be rationed to a certain extent. For example, hospitality should only be provided if the visiting representative has a certain level of seniority such as a Speaker or Committee Convenor.

- Whether the group of MSP’s available to attend lunches or dinners of this kind should be widened out, for example, to include MSP’s who have recently been involved in CPA Scotland Branch activities.

Decision

5. Members are invited to discuss the issues raised in this paper.

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