



BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Date: Wednesday 3 December 2025

Time: 12:30-13:15

Location: VC Room / Hybrid

Present

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Chair

David Rees MS (Vice-President)

Natasha Asghar MS

Delyth Jewell MS

Rhianon Passmore MS

Secretariat

Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary

Siân Stoodley, Llywydd's Private Office

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies of:

- Alun Davies MS
- Sam Rowlands MS

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - Paper CPA 6S-25-03 (**DOC 1**)

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

4. **Feedback and follow-up of recent Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences**

- [61st Canadian Regional Conference](#)

Quebec City

20-23 July (DOC 2)

Branch Vice-President, David Rees MS, discussed his experience, representing the Senedd Branch at the CPA Canada Regional Conference. He stated that the conference had been very well organised and an excellent opportunity to showcase the Senedd. There had been much interest in current developments in Wales and the conference had provided a platform to develop new and strengthen existing relations between the Senedd and several Canadian legislatures.

- *BIMR EOM*

St Helena

21 August – 8 September

As anticipated, the very short notice of this mission had meant it was not possible for the Branch to put anyone forward for this EOM. The Mission report is available to read [here](#).

- *BIMR CWP Steering Committee Meetings*

22 September & 17 November

Discussions at the two most recent meetings had included:

- *Feedback of the CWP Conference and elections at the CPC in Barbados.*
- *The request from the CPA to share the survey on childcare requirements at conferences to facilitate attendance.*
- *an update by the CPA Northern Ireland Branch on their forthcoming Regional CWP Conference*

- *Visit by Lawrence Xu Nan MP (New Zealand Parliament)
1-2 October*

The Branch had been pleased to facilitate a programme for Laurence Xu Nan MP, whom the Branch President and Chair had met previously as part of a Bilateral meeting with a New Zealand Parliamentary Delegation.

Lawrence Xu Nan's programme had included meetings with Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair of the *Equality & Social Justice Committee* on the Future Generations Wales Act, as well as with the Clerking team of the Standards of Conduct Committee. The Llywydd and Luke Fletcher also hosted a lunch for Lawrence.

- *68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Barbados
6-12 October (DOC 3)*

Natasha Asghar MS and Alun Davies MS attended October's CPC in Barbados. Natasha Asghar MS was invited to speak of her experience, which had included participation in the CWP Conference, Chairing a Workshop and representing the Senedd on the CPA's International Executive Committee. The Chair noted the Branch's thanks to Natasha Asghar MS and Alun Davies MS for their report.

- *Visit by Maltese High Commissioner
15 October*

The Senedd hosted a short visit by Professor Stephen Montefort, the Maltese High Commissioner to the UK, which included a presentation on developments at the Senedd, as well as a meeting

with the DPO.

- *BIMR LGBT+ Network Meeting & Event.*
24 November
Westminster

Adam Price MS was interim Chair at this inaugural BIMR LGBT+ networking event (since the network was launched at the Senedd in June). Hannah Blythyn MS was also able to attend the steering committee meeting virtually.

The forum had included roundtable discussions on:

- *the level of LGBT visibility in politics across the BIM region, and*
- *the state of play in the Commonwealth on LGBT+ equality examining recent progress as well as challenges.*

Adam Price MS would be drafting an article on the forum, which would be shared more widely.

- *"The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI"*
Conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
28-30 November

The Branch was pleased to have been offered two places at this much anticipated conference and, following considerable interest from Members, Adam Price MS and Hannah Blythyn MS had been selected to represent the Senedd.

A report would be produced in due course and it was hoped there would be an opportunity to share learnings from the conference, more widely, across the Senedd and the Commission.

5. **FORWARD PLANNING**

Forthcoming Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences

2025

- [BIMR EOM](#)
[Falkland Islands](#)

03-16 December

Alun Davies MS was on his way to the Falkland Islands for this rescheduled EOM for which he had been selected as Head of Mission. The Branch wished him well and looked forward to learning of his experience.

2026

- *BIMR CWP Steering Committee Meeting*
Virtual
26 January

The next CWP Steering Committee Meeting had been confirmed for this date, with papers to be circulated in the new year.

- *BIMR CWP Conference*
Belfast, Northern Ireland
8-10 February

The official invite for the next Regional CWP Conference, hosted by CPA Northern Ireland Branch in Belfast, had been issued. This year's conference was being hosted earlier than usual to try and accommodate Members from numerous BIMR legislatures, including our own, who had elections in 2026.

The Senedd had been invited to send three members and the Branch Secretariat would contact Members and Party Groups to select our delegation.

It was noted that a Stage 3 session in Plenary on 10 February would need to be considered as part of the planning for our participation.

- *BIMR CPwD Forum (and Disability Summit)*
Edinburgh, Scotland
20-21 February

Mark Isherwood MS, as the Senedd's Disabilities Champion, would attend and represent the Branch at this CPwD forum which would be hosted by Jeremy Balfour MSP (BIMR CPwD Chair) and the Scottish Parliament.

SEVENTH SENEDD

- *55th BIMR Conference*
Gibraltar
15-18 June (TBC)

The Gibraltar Branch had kindly confirmed their offer to host next year's BIM Regional Conference.

The Branch would consider its delegation, following the Senedd elections and the establishment of the new Executive Committee.

- *Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP)*
Sydney, New South Wales
1-5 July

Following last year's hosting of the CPC, the New South Wales Parliament had now confirmed that they would be hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Sydney.

Members were supportive of trying to secure places for the Senedd to once again be represented at the CYP and the secretariat would work with the Welsh Youth Parliament team to facilitate this.

The Chair noted that, given the timing of the conference, it would likely be necessary for the Branch to select our delegate(s) before the dissolution of this Senedd term.

- *69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference*
Cape Town, South Africa
5-11 October (TBC)

It was noted that, following confirmation at the recent General Assembly, next year's 69th CPC would be hosted by South Africa in Cape Town.

The Chair discussed the positive relations that had been developed between the Senedd and the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP), who would play an active role in the conference organisation.

The Acting Branch Secretary confirmed that every effort would be made to take advantage of the opportunity for the Senedd delegation to engage with the WCPP, as part of participation in the wider CPC.

6. **NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- *Review of CPA Senedd Branch Rules.*

The Chair reminded Members that our Branch constitution stipulated that there would be a review of our CPA Branch Rules at the end of each Senedd term.

A dedicated meeting would therefore be arranged to discuss any proposed changes in February 2026.

These renewed Branch Rules would be ratified at the Branch AGM and would come into effect at the beginning of the Seventh Senedd.

- Members noted the Senedd [BIMR Conference Report](#) which can be read [here](#) *(include link)*

7. **FUTURE MEETING DATE:**

- February (TBC)
- March/April (AGM)

END OF BUSINESS