



## BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 12 February 2025

**Time:** 12:45-13:25

**Location:** Meeting Room 14 (Senedd)

### Present

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Chair

David Rees MS (Vice-President)

Alun Davies MS

Delyth Jewell MS

### Secretariat

Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary

Elin Sutton, Llywydd's Private Office

## AGENDA

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

Rhianon Passmore MS

Natasha Asghar MS

Sam Rowlands MS

### 2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - Paper CPA 6S-24-03 (**DOC 1**)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

During the last Branch meeting, at which the Llywydd was present, it was queried – as part of the discussion on EOMs - what the process was for a parliament to invite Observers to its elections, aware that there had not been any such missions to observe Senedd elections up until now.

The Branch Secretariat had looked into this and the response from the BIMR was that it only observed Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Should the Senedd wish to invite an EOM team then this would need to be through alternative organisations, such as the [Congress of Regional and Local Authorities](#) or [Democracy Volunteers](#)

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

#### 2024

- *BIMR Webinar "What are the barriers for disabled people standing for elected office and how can they be overcome?"  
2 December.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer had observed this webinar which was of interest to the work of the [Future Senedd Committee](#)

- *Online Briefing by CPA Secretary-General Stephen Twigg.  
Feedback on LGBT+ inclusion discussions at CHOGM and CPC  
11 December (12:00-13:00)*

Following the online briefing by the Secretary General a meeting was hosted by the BIMR to take forward the work of the BIMR LGBT Network at which Adam Price MS was playing a leading Role. A link to a post on the BIMR website of that meeting was available [here](#).

#### 2025

- *Regional Webinar on Gender Quotas  
20 January  
[Link to post event online article.](#)*

A link to the post event article had been circulated. Joyce Watson MS was able to attend and contributed to this event.

- *Visit to the Senedd by Canadian Interns*  
*21 February*

Whilst not a formal CPA visit, the Senedd was pleased to host the delegation of Canadian interns (in partnership with the Welsh Government) in which several Members participated. These included John Griffiths MS, Sam Rowlands MS and Heledd Fychan MS as well as the Branch Chair

- *BIMR CWP Steering Committee Meeting*  
*27 January.*

Natasha Asghar MS, Delyth Jewell MS and Rhianon Passmore MS were able to attend most of the meeting which included discussions on the recent Gender Quotas webinar as well as plans for International Women's Day (for which Members would film clips and submit them to the CPA). There was also an interesting discussion on the differing views of which social media platforms (X/Twitter in particular) which some Members were now deciding to turn away from and to adopt alternatives.

## 5. **FORWARD PLANNING**

### **Forthcoming Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences**

- *73<sup>rd</sup> Westminster Seminar*  
*10-14 March*

Preparations were in place for James Evans MS' participation in next month's Westminster Seminar.

- *BIMR CWP Conference*  
*Edinburgh, Scotland*  
*16-19 March*

Natasha Asghar MS, Rhianon Passmore MS and Sioned Williams MS would represent the Branch at this year's Regional CWP Conference, hosted by the Scottish Parliament.

- *BIMR EOM*  
*Cayman Islands*  
*26 April-2 May*

Alun Davies MS had been successful in gaining a place as a Short-term Observer on this mission. It was understood that there would be further EOM opportunities in the Autumn.

- *CWP Conference*  
*Nassau, The Bahamas*  
*28 April - 4 May*

Sioned Williams MS' application had been successful and was put forward as the Branch's nomination. Sioned Williams MS would be one of 30 CPA Parliamentarians participating in the workshop, which would focus on "*Parliamentarians of Women's Economic Empowerment*"

- *BIMR Conference*  
*Cardiff, Wales*  
*17-19 June (DOC 2)*

A discussion was held on the forthcoming BIMR Conference which would be hosted by the Senedd.

It was agreed that Alun Davies MS and Delyth Jewell MS (both of whom had not previously attended a BIMR) would, along with the Chair, be official Senedd delegates\*

\*Afternote: Sam Rowlands MS was subsequently contacted and agreed to represent the Welsh Conservative Group as a delegate at the Conference.

It was confirmed that other Members of the Branch Executive Committee, as well as the Branch Presidents (Llywyddion) would participate in numerous aspects of the Conference.

There was agreement that, amongst the themes under consideration, *the Welsh Youth Parliament; Mental Health and Wellbeing of parliamentarians; and the importance of support for LGBT+ parliamentarians* should be included as part of the programme.

- *61<sup>st</sup> Canadian Regional Conference*  
*Quebec City*  
*20-23 July*

The National Assembly for Quebec would this year be hosting the CPA Canada Regional Conference. In recognition of the productive relations between our parliaments, the Senedd will receive an invitation to send one Member to attend the conference as an international observer. The Branch Secretariat would advertise the opportunity to Members as soon as practical.

- *68<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference / CWP elections*  
*Barbados*  
*6-13 October*

The Branch expected to receive an official invitation to the CPC in May, following the ExCo Meeting in London. Our delegate for this conference would be a woman Member but it was also hoped that the Branch would be able to accommodate the participation of an additional Member, as an Observer.

- *Commonwealth Youth Parliaments*  
*2026/2028.*

The Chair noted that our Branch had previously expressed an interest in hosting a future CYP - and indeed the Llywydd raised this at our last meeting, following a meeting with the New Zealand Parliament to discuss their experience of hosting the 2024 conference.

The CPA Secretariat had since then been in touch to ask formally whether the Senedd would like to pursue the option of hosting in 2026.

Following a discussion, Members agreed that it would be difficult for the Senedd to undertake this commitment during an election year. Members were, however, keen to revisit this matter and to assess whether the CPA Senedd Branch could host a future CYP during the

Seventh Senedd.

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

Paper to Note:

- *67<sup>th</sup> CPC, Sydney Report (DOC 3)*

7. **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Branch ExCo Meetings:

Provisional meetings in April, June & July