



BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Time: 12:30-13:20

Location: 4B (Ty Hywel)

Present

David Rees MS (Vice-President and Acting Chair)

Natasha Asghar MS

Rhianon Passmore MS

Secretariat

Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary

Beatrice Young, Llywydd's Private Office

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS

Alun Davies MS

Sam Rowlands MS

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - Paper CPA 6S-25-01 (**DOC 1**)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

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

- *73rd Westminster Seminar
10-14 March*

James Evans MS had represented the Senedd at the Seminar and provided constructive, and generally positive, feedback of his experience. A formal CPA UK report would be issued shortly.

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

Natasha Asghar MS, Rhianon Passmore MS and Sioned Williams MS had represented the Branch at this year's CWP Conference, hosted by the Scottish Parliament. A formal report was being prepared by the BIMR Secretariat. Rhianon Passmore MS circulated a personal report she had drafted of her experience at the conference.

Members present noted the Senedd's thanks to the Scottish Parliament for having hosted an excellent and very well-organised conference.

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

Alun Davies MS had become the first Member of the Senedd in many years to participate in an Election Observer Mission. Alun Davies MS had passed on positive feedback of both the experience and of the mission being very well organised.

The BIMR's preliminary statement of the Cayman Islands election had been shared with Members.

- [CWP Conference](#)
[Nassau, The Bahamas](#)
28 April - 4 May

Sioned Williams MS had expressed her gratitude to the Branch for this experience which she found of great value. Her draft Branch report had been shared with Members.

Note: Sioned Williams MS' commissioned article in the **Parliamentarian** Journal can be found [here](#).

- *Visit by Speaker of the Queensland Parliament*
7-8 May

The Llywydd was pleased to welcome the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Pat Weir to the Senedd.

Speaker Weir's programme had focussed on the operations of Committees and Financial Scrutiny and included meetings with the Deputy Presiding Officer and Chair of the Senedd's Finance Committee, Peredur Owen Griffiths MS.

- *Visit by Speaker of the Australian Parliament (Senate)*
14 May

The Llywydd welcomed President Sue Lines, Speaker of the Australian federal Senate to the Senedd. President Lines' programme included a meeting with the DPO as well as the Chair of the Senedd Standards of Conduct Committee, Hannah Blythyn MS.

Note: Both Speaker Weir and President Lines had been in the United Kingdom to participate in the CPA's International Executive Committee Meeting, held in London on 13 May.

- *Meeting of the BIMR LGBT+ Working Group*
19 May

This online meeting had included representatives from several BIMR Branches. The Senedd was represented by Adam Price MS. Discussions included how the new Network could be taken forward as well the official launch, which would take place at the Senedd as part of our BIMR Conference.

5. **FORWARD PLANNING**

Forthcoming Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences

2025

- *BIMR Conference
Cardiff, Wales
17-19 June*

The Acting Chair noted that preparations for our hosting of this major conference were progressing well. A high level programme had been distributed and a short discussion was held about the Conference format and main sessions

- *Visit by President of the New South Wales Legislative Council
2 July.*

The Acting Chair noted that Mr Ben Franklin, President (Speaker) of the New South Wales Legislative Council (Senate) would be visiting the Senedd for an official programme, with a focus on Parliamentary Engagement.

- *61st Canadian Regional Conference
Quebec City
20-23 July*

The Acting Chair had noted that he had expressed an interest in representing the Senedd as an international Observer at the CPA Canada Regional Conference, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Quebec. He was pleased to have been accepted as the Senedd's delegate and was looking forward to participating in the Conference.

- *BIMR EOM
Falkland Islands
October-November*

Alun Davies MS had been the only Member to express an interest in this opportunity and the Branch had submitted his nomination to the BIMR Secretariat.

Afternote: Alun Davies MS was subsequently selected to be the Head of Mission for this EOM.

- *68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference / CWP elections
Barbados
6-13 October.*

The dates of the 68th CPC in Barbados had now been confirmed at the recent ExCo meeting and official invitations were expected the following week.

For reasons, covered under Item 6 (AOB), the Acting Chair proposed that the Branch would select our Delegate for this conference from within this Branch Executive Committee and that the additional place for an Observer be opened up to the wider Branch.

- **2026**
*BIMR CWP Conference
Belfast, NI
February*

It was noted that the CPA Northern Ireland Branch had committed to host the 2026 Regional CWP Conference. The NIA Branch were aware of National Elections taking place in several parliaments within our BIM Region, including Wales and Scotland, and were consequently hosting the conference earlier than would usually be the case, in the hope of attracting as many CWP Members as possible.

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

- *Senedd representative on CPA International Executive Committee.*

The Acting Chair confirmed that the Senedd CPA Branch would be transitioning (from CPA Scotland) onto the CPA International Executive Committee at this year's CPC.

Our delegate at this year's CPC would therefore need to represent us on the Executive Committee at the end of the official conference.

The Branch Secretariat would shortly be contacting Members of the Branch Executive Committee to invite expressions of interest to be the

Branch's (BIMR) IExCo representative which would be considered by the Branch Office Holders (Llywydd, DPO and Chair).

Afternote: It was subsequently clarified to Members that this opportunity would be to represent our Branch at this year's CPC only. The substantive representative for our full 2026-28 term on the CPA International Executive committee would be decided following the 2026 Senedd elections.

7. **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

A provisional Meeting slot had been arranged for 4 June but was not required.

END OF BUSINESS