

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF JERSEY  
BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION  
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2008**

**Question**

1. Would the Chairman advise members how many delegations from Jersey have attended Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conferences and seminars in the past 6 years?
2. Who attended as delegates, where did they attend and what did attendance at these events cost?

**Answer**

1. & 2. The table below shows all CPA conferences and seminars attended by delegations from Jersey since 2002 together with the associated costs. It may firstly though be helpful to set out details of the arrangements that are in place for attendance at the various annual events.

In general Jersey delegations attend 3 separate types of CPA events as follows –

**British Islands and Mediterranean Regional conference**

The Annual Regional Conference brings together delegates from the 13 branches of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (Alderney, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Northern Ireland, St. Helena, Scotland, United Kingdom, Wales). The conference is hosted by one of the regional branches each year and was last hosted by Jersey in 2005. Under the Regional Constitution Jersey is entitled to send 4 members and a secretary to each Regional conference. The funding arrangements for the Regional conference are that delegations pay their own travel costs to the conference location but all accommodation and other costs are then met by the host branch. The Jersey Branch provides members with a £15 a day expenses allowance to meet minor incidental costs such as meals during the journey, laundry and any meals that are not covered as part of the conference programme (no other expenses claims from delegates are permitted).

**Small Countries and Commonwealth Parliamentary (Plenary) conferences**

These two conferences take place in a different Commonwealth country each year. The two day Small Countries conference brings together parliamentarians from jurisdictions with a population of less than 500,000 and this conference is followed by the Plenary conference which brings together some 600 delegates from all Commonwealth countries. Jersey is entitled to send three members and a secretary to the conferences. The funding arrangements are different from the Regional conference as the CPA Secretariat refunds the full cost of travel to the conference location (by the cheapest economy fare) and the host branch meets all accommodation and other costs on arrival. The Jersey Branch only therefore has to pay for the £15 per day expenses allowance although, on occasions, it is necessary to pay for one additional night's accommodation if delegates arrive in advance of the official arrival day (as delegates must travel in Economy Class the Jersey Branch will allow members to arrive one day early on long haul flights).

**Seminars**

One annual seminar is organised by the CPA Secretariat in conjunction with a different host branch each year. These seminars bring together a small number of parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth for an intense programme of discussions on various issues relating to the parliamentary process. Jersey has been fortunate in obtaining a place on many of the seminars in recent years. Normally one member is selected per seminar and the funding arrangements are similar to those for the Regional conference. Jersey must meet all travel costs to the seminar location but, on arrival, all costs are met by the host branch. The

£15 per day expenses allowance is paid to any member attending from Jersey. A number of seminars are also organised at Westminster by the United Kingdom CPA Branch and a number of members from Jersey have attended these in recent years. The funding arrangements are the same as for the seminars organised by the CPA Secretariat.

### Events attended since 2002

<b>Event and Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Regional Conference – Cardiff 8 – 12 April 2002	Deputy I.S. Nicolls Senator C.G.P. Lakeman Deputy C.J. Scott Warren Miss C.M. Newcombe	£1,496
Small Countries/Plenary – Namibia 3 – 14 September 2002	Senator T.J. Le Main Deputy I.S. Nicolls Deputy C.J. Scott Warren Mr. M.N. de la Haye	£1,185
Seminar – Wilton Park, West Sussex 9 – 13 June 2003	Deputy R.G. Le Herissier	£136
Regional Conference – London 15 – 20 June 2003	Senator F.H. Walker Senator J.A. Le Maistre Deputy S.C. Ferguson Deputy G. Grime Mrs. A.H. Harris	£1,175
Seminar – Cook Islands 16 – 23 August 2003	Senator P.F.C. Ozouf	£2,563
Small Countries/Plenary – Bangladesh 4 – 12 October 2003	Deputy R.G. Le Herissier Deputy J.J. Huet Deputy F.J. Hill Mrs. A.H. Harris	£1,682
Regional Conference – Falklands 14 – 21 February 2004	Senator J.A. Le Maistre Deputy J.B. Fox Deputy M. Taylor Mr. M.N. de la Haye	£5,724
Seminar, Malaysia 23 – 30 May 2004	Deputy C.J. Scott Warren	£1,010
Small Countries/Plenary – Canada 30 August – 9 September 2004	Senator M.E. Vibert Senator P.F. Routier Connétable D.F. Gray Mr. M.N. de la Haye	£2,206
Regional Conference – Jersey 12 – 17 June 2005	Senator F.H. Walker Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy J.G. Reed Deputy C.F. Labey	(see Note)

Small Countries/Plenary – Fiji 2 – 10 September 2005	Deputy M.F. Dubras The Bailiff Senator P.F.C. Ozouf Mrs. A.H. Harris	£2,261
Seminar – Malta 31 October – 4 November 2005	Senator P.F. Routier <i>Mr. M.N. de la Haye (for CPA HQ)</i>	£850
Seminar – Westminster 6 – 17 March 2006	Deputy A. Breckon	£266
Regional Conference – Malta	Deputy R.G. Le Herissier Senator J.L. Perchard Connétable A.S. Crowcroft Deputy D.W. Mezbourian Mr. D. Filippini	£2,136
Seminar – Westminster 7 – 19 May 2006	Connétable D.F. Gray	£347
Seminar – Turks and Caicos 28 May – 3 June 2006	Deputy S.C. Ferguson	£1,035
Small Countries/Plenary – Nigeria 3 to 10 September 2006	Senator T.J. Le Main Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy J.B. Fox Mr. M.N. de la Haye	£1,342
Seminar – Westminster 6 to 8 November 2006	Deputy S. Pitman	£209
Mid-year Executive Committee Cyprus 16 – 21 April 2007	Mr. M.N. de la Haye (observer re. arrangements for 2008 meeting)	£40
Regional Conference – Belfast 13 – 17 May 2007	Deputy S.C. Ferguson Deputy C.J. Scott Warren Deputy K.C. Lewis Deputy S. Power Mrs. A.H. Harris	£1,753
Small Countries/Plenary – India 22 – 30 September 2007	Deputy R.G. Le Herissier Deputy J.G. Reed Deputy J. Gallichan Mrs. A.H. Harris	£1,927
Seminar – Canada 21 – 27 October 2007	Deputy G.P. Southern Deputy A.E. Pryke	£1,604
Seminar – Edinburgh 28 October – 3 November 2007	Deputy J.A. Martin	£269

Notes.

- i) Former Senator J.A. Le Maistre was a Regional Representative on the CPA International Executive Committee between the end of 2002 and September 2005. In this capacity, in addition to the

Regional conferences shown above, he also attended the Bangladesh, Canada and Fiji Plenary conferences during this period and 3 mid-year Executive Committee meetings held in Uganda, Australia and the Isle of Man. The expenses of Regional Representatives attending these meetings are met by the CPA Secretariat and are not the responsibility of the Branch.

ii) The Regional Conference was held in Jersey in 2005 and, as explained above, Jersey, as host branch, had to meet all the accommodation and other expenses for the delegates who attended. The cost to the Jersey Branch was £47,262.

### **Question**

3. How are selections of delegates made under current rules and, what was the recent application of those rules in this regard by the Executive Committee?

### **Answer**

3. The Executive Committee of the Jersey Branch is keen to encourage as many members of the States as possible to participate in CPA activities. At the beginning of each year all members are invited to express an interest in attending the various events which the Branch has been notified about and the Executive Committee then meets to make a choice of delegates. At this meeting a complete list of all the various conferences and seminars that members have previously attended is available. Members of the Committee who have expressed an interest in attending an event leave the meeting during the selection of delegates for that event.

The Branch will usually select one experienced member to lead the delegation. The Branch regards Regional conferences as an excellent 'starting point' for participation in CPA events and, as there are four places available, will always try, if possible, to choose two delegates who have not previously attended a CPA conference. Because of the nature of the Small Countries and Plenary conferences the Executive Committee considers that, if possible, it is preferable to send three members who already have some experience of CPA events. In relation to seminars, the Branch considers that these are also ideally suited to newer members of the Assembly and the Committee will often choose from applicants who have never previously attended any CPA events.

When the selection of delegates is made the conference topics are not always known but, occasionally, this information is available and it is then possible to select one or more delegates who have a particular interest in the subject. For example the Branch was notified this year that the theme of the Regional Conference is 'the Environment' and the Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel who had expressed an interest was a logical choice to join the delegation.

I should point out that there are almost always more applicants than there are places available and, for this reason, some members will always be unsuccessful. This may be particularly true if members limit their interest to only one event where they may be competing against 15 or more of their colleagues for only three or four places. The Branch will also be conscious, when making selections, of applications from members who express continued interest in CPA matters over a period of time rather than simply expressing a 'one off' interest in a particular conference destination.

I am satisfied that the recent selection of delegates for 2008 as set out below met the Committee's usual criteria.

### **Question**

4. What CPA events will Jersey delegations be attending in 2008, what are the themes of these events and which delegates have been selected to attend?

5. What is the anticipated cost of attending the 2008 conferences and how will these costs be met?

## Answer

4. & 5. To date Jersey has received three invitations to attend CPA events in 2008. These are as follows –

**Westminster Seminar organised by the UK Branch – 3rd to 14th March 2008.** Deputy K.C. Lewis will attend this seminar. This annual seminar is an intense learning experience on a wide range of parliamentary practices and procedures. The total cost to the Jersey Branch will be the cost of a return air fare to London (£96.80 return), travel to central London (£28.80 return) and the £15 per day expenses allowance (£180).

### **Regional Conference in Gibraltar – 11th to 15th May 2008**

Senator Ozouf, the Connétable of St. Martin and Deputies Duhamel and Le Claire will attend this year's Regional Conference accompanied by the Hon. Secretary, Michael de la Haye. The overall theme for the conference is 'the Environment'. No firm bookings have been made for the conference yet but the costs to the Jersey Branch will be the return air fares to Gibraltar and the £15 per day expenses allowance.

### **Small Countries and Plenary conferences in Malaysia – 3rd to 10th August 2008**

Senators Vibert and Perchard and the Deputy of St. Martin will attend this conference accompanied by the Hon. Secretary, Michael de la Haye who will also attend the Society of Clerks conference which is always held in parallel with the CPA Annual Conference. No details of the conference topics have been received yet. The figures given in answer to questions 1 and 2 above show that the average total cost to the Jersey Branch of attending these annual conferences over the last six years has been approximately £1,767 and it is probable that the 2008 cost will be similar.

All direct costs associated with attendance are met from the annual grant from the States referred to in answer 6 below.

Jersey has applied for one place on the 2008 CPA Seminar which is being held in Ottawa in June. The Branch will hear in April whether or not its application for a place has been successful.

## Question

6. Are the accounts of the Jersey Branch available for inspection and, if so, where can they be inspected and who is entitled to view them?

## Answer

6. The Jersey Branch receives an annual grant from the States that is shown as part of the States Assembly estimates in the Annual Business Plan. In recent years the amount of the grant has been fixed at £40,000 per year. A substantial proportion of this grant goes towards Jersey's annual subscription to the Association which this year amounted to £26,629. This subscription is Jersey's contribution to the Association's work across the Commonwealth which, in addition to the conferences and seminars shown above, includes post-election seminars as well as training and general assistance for parliamentarians, particularly in developing countries, to help them improve and enhance democratic structures. Membership also enables the Jersey Branch to access the research facilities provided by the CPA Secretariat.

Detailed accounts of the manner in which the annual grant is spent are kept by the States Greffe under the supervision of the Treasurer of the States in his capacity as Honorary Treasurer of the Jersey Branch. Annual accounts are circulated to members and considered at the Jersey Branch's AGM each year. The accounts are not confidential and can be made available to anyone who wishes to inspect them through the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Michael de la Haye, at the States Greffe.