

Westminster Seminar 13 - 17 November 2017

Report of Peter Rundle

I am pleased to report on an excellent trip to London for the 2017 Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure.

I was pleased to be joined by Robyn Clarke MLA and Matthew Bates Clerk.

We were welcomed by Jon Davies CEO & Secretary of CPA UK.

I would like to reflect on some of the highlights and speakers on what I found to be a really informative seminar.

On the opening day Lord Lisvane (House of Lords) spoke of the Increased pull of the Constituent, Increase in staff, Getting people to understand what Parliament does, Bringing Parliament to the people and E - Petitions to House of Commons.

Dr Tarcisius Mukaka spoke of Good leadership, Good heart and Intelligence and New leaders who will lead into the future.

The final section of day 1 was very interesting and focused on Leading for the future.

Day 2 had some excellent speakers regarding the Pressures on a Parliamentarian. In his case he had to resign from his party to take on his role as Speaker. He has to be impartial, the referee and not the player.

Some of the issues in relation to pressure on a Parliamentarian include, family, balance, distance, constituents.

I was pleased to be part of a panel on The afternoon of the second day in relation to standards and ethics. I was happy to impart my limited knowledge from my experience on the PPC committee. It was also interesting to visit MP offices across Westminster . I attended the Education Ministers Office.

Day 3 covered Legislation, Committees and Behaviour and Etiquette.

Liam Smyth (Clerk of Legislation) spoke of drafting legislation, however he was being distracted by Brexit.

Hon Baroness Primarolo and previous Deputy Speaker spoke of holding Prime Minister to account and of question time.

Charles Walker who is Chair of Procedures Committee was excellent and we spent time at pseudo committee.

Day 4 focused on diversity in other Parliaments. Baroness Verma was excellent re Different Structures in other Parliaments.

Day 5 was spent on Social Media with Kate Faragher.

We also took the opportunity on the final day to meet the Agent General John Atkins which was excellent

I found the seminar very valuable and would recommend it to any Parliamentarian. It was great to tour Westminster and UK CPA were great hosts.