

British-American Parliamentary Group



Annual Report & Draft Accounts 2022-23

(For the year ended 31 March 2023)

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PERFORMANCE REPORT

Foreword to the Accounts

Introduction

The British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG) was formed in 1937 to promote closer relations and understanding between Members of both Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom and Members of both Houses of Congress of the United States of America by providing opportunities for discussion on problems common to both countries and for the exchange of visits and information. The BAPG Objectives, Activities and Rules were formally adopted on 5 July 1967 and have since been subject to minor amendments, with the latest in 2018.

The BAPG acts as an autonomous body within Parliament. It appoints its own administrative staff to carry out its objectives and the rules of the BAPG define the limitations on its powers.

The management of the BAPG is vested in the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary, who is a member of the Executive Committee, is primarily responsible for the BAPG's activities; the Administrator, who is an official of the BAPG and is not a member of the Executive Committee, is responsible for the executive work of the BAPG. The Chair of the BAPG is the Prime Minister. The two Vice-Chairs from the House of Commons are normally of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet rank.

Principal Activities of the British-American Parliamentary Group

The format of the annual programme of activities has historically consisted of: one Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference; one ad hoc thematic visit to the United States (budget allowing); one 'familiarisation' visit to the United States for members with no or little prior experience of the US to learn about the US legislative process and the cultural and political influences in US society, run jointly with the United States Embassy and the United States Department of State, and attendance as observers at a biennial course conducted by the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School for newly elected Members of Congress. Also, every four years, during a Presidential election year, members attend the Democratic and Republican National Party Conventions to see Presidential candidate selection.

Various other activities are held in the United Kingdom with distinguished visitors from the United States.

In 2022-23, the BAPG was able to resume its traditional programme of activities, after two years of restricted activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2022, we were delighted to host the deferred 2021 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference with a senior delegation from the US Senate in London and West Sussex. We also planned to host the 2022 Annual Conference with a delegation from the US House of Representatives in late November following the US Midterm Elections but, in the end, had to postpone due to the House not having confirmed a delegation in time. We hope to be able to reschedule the meeting in 2023-24.

In May 2022, six members took part in a long-awaited specialist delegation visit to San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles for four days to look at Zero Emission & Autonomous Vehicles Policy, Regulation, and Commercial Opportunity.

In July 2022, the BAPG, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State and the US Embassy, sent eight Members of Parliament to the U.S. to learn about the U.S. legislative process and the cultural and political influences in U.S. society.

In December 2022, four members attended as observers the Institute of Politics Harvard Kennedy School bi-partisan programme for newly elected Members of Congress.

Relationship with the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission

The BAPG is funded mainly by a grant from the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission in the proportion 70:30. The BAPG submits a detailed income and expenditure budget together with bids for expenditure on a rolling three-year programme, usually in September each year, or at the request of the Clerks of the Overseas Offices, who are the budget holders on behalf of the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission. Approval of the budget and the amount of the grant for the coming year is agreed in the first quarter of the following year. The grant is normally paid in one instalment, usually in April each year.

Results for the Year

The Statement of Comprehensive Net Income (page 16) shows that the BAPG had a net operating deficit of £65,078 for the year 2022-23 (in 2021-22 the BAPG had a net operating deficit of £39,104). The Parliamentary grant for the year was £124,765 (in 2021-22 it was £73,040*).

As of 31st March 2023, the BAPG holds £86,983 in reserves (page 17). This includes £26,500 for the deferred 2022 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference and £13,568 to fund the anticipated budget shortfall in financial year 2023-24 so that we may deliver the BAPG's normal programme of activities.

While the reserves currently exceed the expected one fourth of maximum annual funding, the BAPG plans to draw down on the reserves in 2023-24 financial year, circumstances permitting.

* The available Parliamentary grant for 2021-22 was £122,319, although only £73,040 was received and drawn down by the BAPG, as reserves of £17,500 (from the cancellation of the biennial Harvard New Members Orientation Programme in early December 2020) were offset against the payment and are not included as they relate to the last financial year 2020-21 and are included in the general reserve amount. Also, a further £31,779 was deducted by way of the second instalment of the grant payment in October 2021 owing to the cancellation of the 2021 US government co-sponsored visit in July 2021. The total grant received for 2021-22 was therefore £73,040.

Prompt Payment Initiative

In line with best commercial practice, it is BAPG policy to pay bills in accordance with contractual conditions. Where no such conditions exist, it aims to pay within 30 days of receipt of goods and services or on presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is the later. During 2022-23, no interest has been paid to suppliers for the late payment of invoices.

Reduction of Carbon Emissions

In line with government policy, the BAPG used to off-set its carbon emissions from flights via the purchase of Gold Standard Certified Emissions Reduction (CER) credits, facilitated by the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility, under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

UK government policy is no longer centred on carbon offsetting, now focusing on methods to reduce carbon emissions, via measurement, baseline and continuous improvement/reduction, as well as using greener forms of energy.

The BAPG plans its programme of activities mindful of this policy, through measures such as flying delegates to the US in Premium Economy, travelling by train internally in the US, where possible, and arranging ground transport with lower polluting vehicles.

Going Concern

The Accounting Officer considers the BAPG a going concern, given the business involvement established in BAPG activities. The BAPG's grant funding is paid by the House of Commons (70% share) and the House of Lords (30% share) and is included in their supply estimates each year along with those of the three other like grant funded interparliamentary groups (BGIPU, CPA-UK and BIPA). Interparliamentary Group funding for 2023-24 financial year was approved by both Houses on 20th December 2022 with payment of the full grant received by the BAPG in April 2023.

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)

March 2025

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under the Financial Memorandum, the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission have directed the BAPG to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts to the year ended 31 March. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of BAPG and of its income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to:

- give due regard to the procedures laid down in the Financial Memorandum, including relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the BAPG will continue in operation.

The Executive Committee appoints the Accounting Officer, preferably, the Joint Honorary Treasurer of the opposite party to the Honorary Secretary. Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP is the current Accounting Officer, appointed 5th November 2024. The Accounting Officer during the period in which the 2022-23 Accounts cover was The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP. The responsibilities of an 'Accounting Officer' include responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the BAPG's grant funding, for keeping proper records, for safeguarding the BAPG's assets, as set out in the Financial Memorandum agreed between the BAPG, the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission, for ensuring that the annual report and accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and for taking personal responsibility for the annual report and accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

While Sir Christopher Chope was not in the role of Accounting Officer during the period in which the 2022-23 Accounts cover he was a Joint Honorary Treasurer then and conversant with the BAPG activities and finances in this period.

Provision of Information to Auditors

As far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the BAPG's auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General and the National Audit Office (NAO), are unaware. In addition, the Accounting Officer has taken all the steps necessary to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the BAPG's auditors are aware of that information.

Governance Statement

The British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG) maintains a system of governance that supports the achievement of the objectives and activities of the BAPG, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum issued by the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission for the use of the Group's grant. In discharging its responsibilities, the BAPG has had regard to the principles of the Corporate Governance Code for Central Government.

Governance Framework

The BAPG acts as an autonomous body within Parliament. The management of the BAPG is vested in an Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary and Joint Honorary Treasurers, who are nominated by the Executive Committee and ratified each year at the Annual General Meeting as additional members of the Executive Committee with full voting rights, are primarily responsible for the Group's activities. The Chairman of the Group is the Prime Minister. The two Vice-Chairs from the House of Commons are normally of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet rank.

The Group's rules are set out in a single constitutional document and detail the administrative arrangements and membership of the Group.

The day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Administrator who is employed by the Executive Committee and operates under the general direction of the BAPG Officers to implement its policy decisions.

The Group's rules provide that the Executive Committee shall meet four times a year, between one year's AGM and the next. The Executive Committee may determine a time and place for an Annual General Meeting of members to which it submits a report of its proceedings. The rules also allow for the Executive Committee to call Special General Meetings to consider and determine any matter of interest and importance that may arise.

None of the members of the Executive Committee received a remuneration for their role. Details on the composition of the Executive Committee and meeting attendance can be found on pages 7 and 8 respectively.

Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures (subject to audit)

Losses or special payments

There were no losses or special payments during 2022-23 (nil in 2021-22).

Fees and charges

Fees and charges are not relevant to these accounts.

Remote contingent liabilities

There were no remote contingent liabilities as at 31st March 2023.

OFFICERS' & MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-23

Honorary Joint Presidents	The Speaker of the House of Commons The Lord Speaker
Honorary Vice-Presidents	The Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret Beckett, DBE, MP The Rt. Hon. Ian Blackford, MP The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Boothroyd, OM (passed away 26 th February 2023) The Rt. Hon. Sir Iain Duncan Smith, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Falconer of Thoroton, KC The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hague of Richmond The Rt. Hon. the Lord Howard of Lympne, CH, KC The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jopling, DL The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband, MP The Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Morris of Aberavon, KG, KC (passed away 5 th June 2023) The Rt. Hon. the Lord Owen, CH The Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab, MP The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, MP The Rt. Hon. Liz Truss (until her appointment as Prime Minister on 6 th September 2022)
Honorary Chair	The Prime Minister
Honorary Vice-Chairs	The Rt. Hon. Ben Wallace, MP The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington
Honorary Secretary	The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP
Honorary Treasurers	Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

House of Commons	
Government	Opposition
Rehman Chishti, MP	Yvonne Fovargue, MP
Philip Davies, MP	The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP	The Rt. Hon. Kevan Jones, MP
Stephen Hammond, MP	Conor McGinn, MP
Jack Lopresti, MP	Gavin Newlands, MP
The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey, MP	Chi Onwurah, MP
House of Lords	
Conservative	Labour
The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Anderson of Swansea, DL
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
Liberal Democrat	Cross Bench
The Lord Fox	The Earl of Devon

Secretariat: Hannah Mitchell

* Further details on the Executive Committee's meeting attendance is given below (page 9).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee 2022-23 met on: 25th October 2022; 6th December 2022; 7th March 2023 (postponed from 7th February 2023) and 16th May 2023.

The Annual General Meeting, at which the current Executive Committee was elected, took place on 6th July 2022.

The following indicates attendances at the Executive Committee meetings since the last AGM:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Anderson of Swansea, DL	2/4
Rehman Chishti, MP	2/4
Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP	3/4
Philip Davies, MP	1/4
The Earl of Devon	1/4
Yvonne Fovargue, MP	2/4
The Lord Fox	3/4
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP	3/4
Stephen Hammond, MP	1/4
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst	4/4
The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP	4/4
The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington	3/4
The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP	2/4
The Rt. Hon. Kevan Jones, MP	3/4
The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate	2/4
The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP	4/4
Jack Lopresti, MP	1/4
Conor McGinn, MP	0/4
The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey, MP	0/4
Gavin Newlands, MP	2/4
Chi Onwurah, MP	1/4
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen	3/4
The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP	2/4
The Rt. Hon. Ben Wallace, MP	0/4

Relationship with Sponsor: House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission

The House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission provide funding to the BAPG by way of a grant in the proportion 70:30.

The BAPG's relationship with its funding sponsors is embodied in a Financial Memorandum. The Financial Memorandum is an integral part of the governance arrangements.

The Financial Memorandum places a responsibility on the Group to ensure that all resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively. During 2011-12, work was done on a new Financial Memorandum, which provided for greater financial reporting to the "budget holders", the Clerks of the Overseas Offices, and limits on reserves. The new Financial Memorandum was in place with effect from April 2012. The Parliamentary authorities undertook a 'light touch' review of the Financial Memorandum in October 2013 and proposed several minor amendments to bring the Financial Memorandum more in line with existing and expected practices. In the Autumn of 2016, in accordance with section 1.2 of the Memorandum providing for a review at least once every three years, the budget holders undertook a further review, proposing several amendments; some merely drafting points, others addressing points from the internal audit review or that had occurred to the Budget Holders independently, which were approved by the Commons Executive Committee, the Commons Finance Committee, the Lords Finance Committee and the grant funded inter-parliamentary committees during 2017. A further review took place in time for the 2020-21 financial year, with contributions invited from the grant funded inter-parliamentary groups (IPGs). The final changes were mostly updating or clarifying points, along with several new House policies included in the annexes, which were reflected across all the IPG FMS.

The Clerks of the respective InterParliamentary Relations Offices (formerly the Overseas Offices) attend meetings of the BAPG Executive Committee to provide assurance to the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission that funding is being disbursed in accordance with the purposes and principles set out in the Financial Memorandum as well as to provide such advice and assistance as requested.

The Executive Committee appoints an Accounting Officer from its membership, normally one of the Joint Honorary Treasurers from the opposite party to the party of the Honorary Secretary, to ensure that the uses to which the Group puts funds received from the grant are consistent with the purposes for which the grant was given and comply with any conditions attached to them, including the provisions of the Financial Memorandum.

The BAPG's accounts and the activities that underpin them are currently subject to external audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General supported by the National Audit Office (NAO). The NAO carry out their audits in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK) and each year report the results of their work to the BAPG's Executive Committee.

Internal Audit services of both Houses may also be used to provide assurance to the sponsors and to the BAPG Executive Committee. The Internal Audit services have the right of access to all the BAPG records, operations and physical properties of the body and to the Executive Committee members, employees and contractors, as set out in the Financial Memorandum. An internal audit was last carried out in 2017-18 to provide assurance that the governance processes in place were adequate to leave the Accounting Officers of each House able to discharge their responsibility to 'ensure prudent management of grant in aid funds, achieve value for money, and ensure that grants are used as envisaged while allowing recipients reasonable freedom to take their own decisions'. Following the audit, the internal audit team reported that they were "able to provide substantial assurance that the processes in place within BAPG result in the intended objectives being achieved." There has been no recent work undertaken by the internal audit team on the BAPG. Furthermore, there have been no changes in process since the Independent Auditor's last review.

The Group's Governance Activities in 2022-23

The Executive Committee met virtually on four occasions in 2022-23 to consider matters that are set out in the Annual Report of the Executive Committee. Amongst other things, the Committee examined the Group's draft programme of activities for

the present year and estimated costs; reviewed the Group's budgetary position and forecast budget for 2023-24; analysed the Group's accounts for 2021-22 and the annual report of the Honorary Secretary, as well as other matters for discussion and endorsement by the Annual General Meeting.

Quality of Data

In advance of each Executive Committee meeting, an extract of the Treasurer's Report is circulated to the committee, detailing the current finances of the Group, the known liabilities for the year to 31st March and the anticipated balance at the year-end, after the costs have been deducted. This is accompanied by a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting and a summary of the activities that have taken place since the last meeting and those planned for the future. The Committee is also sent at periodic intervals updates on the Group's membership figures and a copy of the Group's latest Risk Register for review. This data information assists the Committee in discharging its responsibilities and achieving the objectives and activities of the BAPG, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum and the principles of the Corporate Governance Code for Central Government.

Risk Management

The risk management process is the responsibility of the Executive Committee and it oversees a risk register which identifies and evaluates possible risks to the Group and sets out the internal controls or mitigating actions in place to manage the risks. It is the responsibility of the Committee to regularly appraise the existing risks and to recommend action where necessary. Importantly, this process is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level, rather than to eliminate all risk. In doing this, it can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The risk register currently identifies 13 risks which fall within the low risk areas after mitigating actions have been taken. The major operational risk is management override of controls. Management is in a unique position to perpetuate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by using its position to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. This is mitigated by the segregation of duties; most payments are by cheque (except for the Administrator's net pay, which is paid by Standing Order every month; Employer and Employee pension contributions, which are required by the Cabinet Office to be paid on-line and exceptional ad hoc on-line payments, when 'fast payment' is required), which require two of three signatories. Furthermore, there are agreed authorisation/delegation limits on financial expenditure, as detailed in the annex of the Financial Memorandum.

An ongoing area of significant concern, which the BAPG Executive Committee is monitoring, is the future sustainability of the BAPG's long-established programme of activities. After five years of no inflationary uplift to the grant (2010-2015), the current base line grant is no longer sufficient to fund the BAPG's traditional programme. This is evidenced from the BAPG's reliance on reserves to make-up the shortfall in budget.

Indicative budgets for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years forecast a continued budget shortfall based on the BAPG's traditional programme of activities. This shortfall is further compounded by a 2% cap on the inflationary uplift to grant payments in 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years at a time of high inflation (the inflation rate is currently 10.1% as at 4th May 2023) which effectively means a real cash cut to its funding. To continue to deliver the traditional programme the Group will have to draw on reserves to fund the budget shortfall. By the end of 2023-24 financial year reserves are forecast to be down to one fourth maximum funding and in 2024-2025 the BAPG will have to bid to the Parliamentary authorities for additional funds in order to facilitate the traditional US election related activities.

In 2016, the BAPG Executive Committee considered other possible sources of finance to help offset the anticipated budget shortfall, including inviting business involvement in BAPG events. We have since had some success with this, particularly in respect of the 2017 and 2018 Annual Conferences, which were hosted in the UK, and the annual reception for the American Ambassador. While we cannot guarantee this revenue stream for future activities, particularly when the Annual Conference is hosted in the US, we will continue to utilise it as an option when we can, to help reduce programme costs and leverage funds for the BAPG's core function of establishing people to people relations via exchange of visits.

Overall, given the business involvement established in BAPG events, as well as the expected continuation of funding from the House of Commons and House of Lords, we are confident that the going concern assumption remains appropriate for the preparation of the financial statements.

Personal Data Related Incidents

The BAPG had no personal data-related incidents during the reporting year.

Changes to the composition of the Executive Committee up to the signature date of the Accounts 2022-23

The Group's Annual General Meeting 2022 took place on 6th July at which members of the 2022-23 Executive Committee were elected. All existing Officers and Members of the Executive Committee 2021-22 were re-elected excepting Douglas Chapman, MP (SNP) who stood down from the committee at the AGM and Gavin Newlands, MP (SNP) was elected to the vacant position.

Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for maintaining effective governance and periodically to review the processes and procedures that are in place. The Accounting Officer's statement is set out below.

My review of the BAPG's governance is informed by the deliberations of the British-American Parliamentary Group's Annual General Meeting, the decisions of the Executive Committee, as well as the views of the Administrator, the Honorary Secretary and the Joint Honorary Treasurer of the BAPG, who have day to day responsibility for the governance processes and procedures.

I have also had regard to guidance on internal control and financial management issued by the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission under the auspices of the Financial Memorandum, as well as the comments made by the external auditors, the Comptroller and Auditor General, supported by the National Audit Office (NAO), in their audit of the BAPG Accounts and the activities that underpin them, which is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and each year reports the results of their work to the BAPG's Executive Committee. As far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there have been no significant internal controls issues raised during the year.

On an enduring basis, I advise the BAPG's Executive Committee on the implications of the periodic reviews of the BAPG's governance processes and procedures. I intend to ensure that the BAPG continues to maintain a reliable system of governance.

I consider that the Executive Committee has an effective stewardship over the resources of the Group.

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)

March 2025

THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the British-American Parliamentary Group for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements comprise the British-American Parliamentary Group's

- Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023;
- Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year then ended; and
- the related notes including the significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the British-American Parliamentary Group's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and its net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context and the Financial Memorandum as approved by the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects, the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 *Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom (2022)*. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report.

Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's *Revised Ethical Standard 2019*. I am independent of the British-American Parliamentary Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that British-American Parliamentary Group's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the British-American Parliamentary Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The going concern basis of accounting for the British-American Parliamentary Group is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual, which require entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it is anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements nor my auditor's report. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context; and
- the information given in the Performance and Accountability Reports for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the British-American Parliamentary Group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance and Accountability Reports.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept by the British-American Parliamentary Group or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury’s guidance.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer’s Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;
- providing the C&AG with access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
- providing the C&AG with additional information and explanations needed for his audit;
- providing the C&AG with unrestricted access to persons within the British-American Parliamentary Group from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- ensuring such internal controls are in place as deemed necessary to enable the preparation of financial statement to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view and are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury’s Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context;
- ensuring that the annual report is prepared in accordance with HM Treasury’s Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context; and
- assessing the British-American Parliamentary Group’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the British-American Parliamentary Group will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)).

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations including fraud

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud is detailed below.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, I:

- considered the nature of the sector, control environment and operational performance including the design of the British-American Parliamentary Group’s accounting policies, key performance indicators and performance incentives.

- inquired of management and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to the British-American Parliamentary Group's policies and procedures on:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations including the British-American Parliamentary Group's controls relating to compliance with the Financial Memorandum agreed with the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission, and Managing Public Money;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance whether:
 - they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- discussed with the engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the British-American Parliamentary Group for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, posting of unusual journals, and bias in management estimates. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), I am also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

I obtained an understanding of the British-American Parliamentary Group's framework of authority and other legal and regulatory frameworks in which the British-American Parliamentary Group operates. I focused on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the British-American Parliamentary Group. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context, Managing Public Money, employment law and tax legislation.

Audit response to identified risk

To respond to the identified risks resulting from the above procedures:

- I reviewed the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described above as having direct effect on the financial statements;
- I enquired of management, and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- I reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Executive Committee reports;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, I tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements on estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business; and
- I communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential risks of fraud to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control I identify during my audit.

Gareth Davies
Comptroller and Auditor General

Date: March 2025

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2023

		2022-23	2021-22
	Note	£	£
Income:			
Parliamentary grant	2	(124,765)	(73,040)
Other operating income	2	(1,897)	(1,772)
Total operating Income		(126,662)	(74,812)
Administration costs:			
Staff costs	3	46,466	44,097
Other administration costs	4	22,638	15,254
		69,104	59,351
Programme costs:			
Programme costs	5	123,496	54,802
Total operating expenditure		192,600	114,153
Net operating (income)/expenditure		65,938	39,341
Bank interest received		(1,062)	(292)
Corporation tax payable		202	55
Net (income)/expenditure		65,078	39,104
Comprehensive net (income)/expenditure¹		65,078	39,104

The notes on pages 22 to 26 form part of the accounts.

¹ There were no transactions in other comprehensive expenditure.

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 March 2023

		31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
	Note	£	£
Current assets:			
Trade and other receivables	7	13,992	3,081
Cash and cash equivalents	8	80,702	146,957
Total current assets		94,694	150,038
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	(7,711)	(18,977)
Total current liabilities		(7,711)	(18,977)
Assets less liabilities		86,983	131,061
Taxpayers' equity:			
General fund		86,983	131,061
Total taxpayers' equity		86,983	131,061

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)
March 2025

The notes on pages 22 to 26 form part of the accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows

For year ended 31 March 2023

		2022-23	2021-22
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure)		(65,938)	(39,341)
Adjustments for tax		(202)	(55)
Adjustments for non-cash transactions – audit fee		21,000	14,000
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	7	(10,911)	(2,732)
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other payables	9	(11,266)	14,520
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		(67,317)	(13,608)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net cash outflow from investing activities		-	-
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash inflow from financing activities – interest received		1,062	292
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(66,255)	(13,316)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	8	146,957	160,273
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	8	80,702	146,957

The notes on pages 22 to 26 form part of the accounts.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	General Fund
		£
Balance at 31 March 2021		156,165
Non-cash charges – auditor's remuneration		14,000
Net income for the year		(39,104)
Balance at 31 March 2022		131,061
Non-cash charges – auditor's remuneration	4	21,000
Net expenditure for the year		(65,078)
Balance at 31 March 2023		86,983

The financial statements on pages 18 to 21 were formally agreed by the Executive Committee on 16th May 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

The notes on pages 22 to 26 form part of the accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2022-23 Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) as adapted or interpreted for the BAPG context which applies International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be the most appropriate to the BAPG for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The policies adopted by the BAPG are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

a. Impending application of newly issued accounting standards

IFRS 16 (Leases), effective from 1st April 2022 has no impact on these accounts as a result of this standard.

IFRS 17 (Insurance contracts), replacing IFRS 4, will be effective for reporting periods after the 1st January 2023. There are currently no insurance contracts in these accounts and therefore no impact is expected as a result of this standard.

1.1 Non-current assets

Immaterial items of office equipment are written off as expenditure, in full, in the year of acquisition. There have been no new assets purchased in 2022-23.

1.2 Operating income

IFRS 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) is applied as standard and sets out the key recognition and measurement criteria in respect of income.

Such income relates directly to the operating activities of the BAPG and principally comprises of Parliamentary grants, Annual Subscriptions, Life Subscriptions, donations and interest on the bank deposit accounts.

Parliamentary grant income is recognised fully in the year which it is awarded.

Annual Subscriptions cover a 12-month period from 1st April each year. Annual Subscriptions paid between 1st January and 31st March each year are treated as subscriptions paid in advance (deferred income).

Income received from Life Subscriptions is deferred over a period of 10 years (two terms of Parliament) and released on an annual basis.

1.3 Gains and losses

The BAPG does not regularly experience gains or losses but these would be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income.

1.4 Taxation

From 6 April 2016, banks and building societies have paid gross (untaxed) interest on savings accounts.

The 2022-23 Accounts show gross interest received of £1,062 as a result, the total tax liability for 2022-23 is £202 (based on a Corporation Tax rate of 19% for 2022-23; 2021-22: 19%).

1.5 Expenditure

The British-American Parliamentary Group pays all the associated costs of events it organises, however, where it collaborates with a partner, such as BritishAmerican Business or The Ditchley Foundation on an event, and their guests join BAPG members at the event, they may cover the cost of venue hire and refreshments.

2. Income

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Parliamentary Grant	124,765	73,040
Annual Subscriptions	1,035	1,015
Life Subscriptions	752	662
Donations	110	95
Total	126,662	74,812

3. Staff numbers and related costs

Staff costs comprise:

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	33,677	32,215
Social security costs	3,554	3,200
Other pension costs	9,235	8,682
Total	46,466	44,097

There is one part-time member of staff at the BAPG responsible for the day-to-day administration.

4. Other administration costs

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Sundry	283	253
Insurance	1,210	875
Website costs	145	126
Non-cash items:		
Auditor's remuneration	21,000	14,000
Total	22,638	15,254

5. Programme costs

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference	26,066	52,049
Specialist Delegation Visit(s)	50,157	-
US Midterm Election Event	1,448	-
BAPG / US Department of State Co-Sponsored Visit	32,498	-
US National Party Conventions	-	-
Harvard new Members of Congress orientation programme	13,163	-
Hospitality	164	2,753
Total	123,496	54,802

During the year the BAPG hosted the following events:

A specialist delegation visit to California in May 2022.

Annual conference(s) – Deferred 2021 Annual Conference (in the UK). The 2022 Annual Conference was deferred and is expected to take place in 2023-24. The Parliamentary Budget Holders have given the BAPG permission to carry over the funds (23rd March 2023);

US government co-sponsored Legislative Programme;

Harvard IOP New Members Orientation Programme (NMOP) – the biennial event held in December 2022 and attended by four BAPG members to observe its bi-partisan programme for newly elected Members of Congress.

There's also:

US Midterm election events;

A specialist delegation visit to Texas scheduled to take place in April 2023.

6. Financial Instruments

IFRS 7 (Derivatives and other Financial Instruments) requires disclosure of the role which financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces in undertaking its activities. The BAPG has limited exposure in relation to its activities.

Liquidity risk

The BAPG was financed by a grant from both Houses of Parliament. As such, it was not exposed to significant liquidity risks.

Interest rate risk

The BAPG was not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency would not usually form part of the Groups assets or liabilities and as such it is not exposed to any significant exchange risks.

Credit risk

The BAPG was not exposed to any credit risk.

7. Trade and other receivables

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments	13,992	640
Other Receivables	-	2,441
Total	13,992	3,081

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	146,957	160,273
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(66,255)	(13,316)
Balance at 31 March	80,702	146,957

The following balances at 31 March were held at:

Commercial banks and cash in hand	80,702	146,957
Balance at 31 March	80,702	146,957

9. Trade and other payables

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other Payables	4,256	15,470
Deferred Income	3,455	3,507
	7,711	18,977

10. Related-party transactions

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are regarded as related parties, providing grant to the Group under the terms provided by the Financial Memorandum. In addition, the House of Commons provides free accommodation to the Group as well as accounting services at the year end.

The House of Commons and House of Lords provided BAPG with a combined grant of £124,765.

During 2022-23, the Group entered into related party transactions worth £4,541. This figure comprises £4,278 paid to the House of Commons Catering Services for the provision of hospitality to BAPG visitors, £92 for in-house printing and £171 for sundry items from the Parliament shop.

The Officers and members of the BAPG Executive Committee do not receive a remuneration for their role.

11. Events after the reporting date

In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10, post Statement of Financial Position events are considered up to the date on which the accounts are authorized for issue by the Accounting Officer. This is the date of the Independent auditor's report of the comptroller and auditor general. I can confirm there are none.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP (not subject to audit)

18th May

A pre-departure briefing meeting took place with the six Parliamentarians taking part in the upcoming Electric and Autonomous Vehicles visit to California, 22-26 May, and officials from the Department of Transport, chaired by the BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP.

22-26th May

A bi-partisan delegation of six Parliamentarians travelled to San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles to look at zero emission & autonomous vehicles policy, regulation, and commercial opportunity. The British Consulates General San Francisco and Los Angeles arranged the programme in conjunction with the BAPG. A copy of the delegation's report was circulated to the Executive Committee on 4th July and is available from the BAPG Secretariat.

26th May

BAPG Officers and members of the BAPG Executive Committee met with Dame Karen Pierce, the British Ambassador to the US, who was in London and kindly came to Parliament to brief BAPG members on the current US political and economic outlook and hear about the BAPG's planned programme of activities.

31st May

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, met with students from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana, studying British politics, for a Question and Answer exchange.

7th June

At the request of Robin Twyman, Consul (Business and Government Affairs) of the UK government office in Seattle, the BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament for the Association of Washington Business (AWB), Washington's largest state-wide business association, which was visiting the UK on a trade mission. The delegation was made up of 30 SME C-suite business executives and Washington State government officials.

14th June

The BAPG collaborated with the Archives and History APPG and the London POTUS Group to organise a 50th anniversary Watergate retrospective event in the Speaker's State Rooms by kind permission of the Speaker. The event took the form of a panel discussion with a combination of historians and politicians who considered Watergate in a broad historical perspective and explored the origins and consequences of the scandal.

The panellists included:

Iwan Morgan, Emeritus Professor of United States History at the Institute of the Americas, University College London;

Tim Stanley, historian, journalist and broadcaster;

Bridget Kendall, journalist, broadcaster and Master of Peterhouse, University of Cambridge;

Chris Evans, MP, Chair of the Archive and History APPG and

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, who chaired the discussion.

4th July

The BAPG hosted a tour of Parliament and Question and Answer exchange for the 2020 intake of US Marshall Scholars whose original visit to Parliament had been cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP and The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst for meeting the Scholars after their tour for a group photo followed by a Question and Answer exchange.

6th July

The Annual General Meeting of the BAPG took place in the Jubilee Room at which the BAPG Executive Committee 2022-23 were elected.

13th July

A pre-departure briefing meeting was held for the participants of the 2022 BAPG / US Department of State co-sponsored 'International Visitor Leadership Programme' 'familiarisation' visit to the US, 17-26 July 2022, chaired by the BAPG Honorary Secretary, who was joined by representatives from the US Embassy's Public Affairs and Political Section.

14th July

The Interparliamentary Affairs Forum took place with leads from the Interparliamentary Relations Office (IPRO) and representatives of Parliament's select committees and inter-parliamentary groups, including the BAPG, to discuss the interparliamentary engagement strategy; challenges around costs of flight/travel options for international work; lessons learned from recent international conferences.

22nd July

At the request of the Ministry of Defence, the BAPG arranged at short notice a tour of Parliament for US State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mike Miller, and accompanying officials. We are most grateful to Eleanor Scarnell, committee specialist on the Defence Select Committee, for conducting the tour.

17-26 July

After a hiatus of two years, the annual BAPG / US Department of State co-sponsored 'International Visitor Leadership Programme' 'familiarization' visit to the US took place. This visit is run jointly with the United States Embassy and the United States Department of State and is designed for Parliamentarians with no or little prior experience of the US to learn about the US legislative process and the cultural and political influences in US society.

Eight MPs took part in the programme and spent five days in Washington, DC, studying the federal system of government, followed by a weekend visit to congressional district where they shadowed a Member of Congress and participated in local activities. They then reunited in Boston, Massachusetts, where the program focused on the role of state government in the US political system and the impact of academia and political advocacy groups in shaping legislation.

26th July

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, briefed the CEO of Wilton Park, Tom Cargill, on the BAPG and its upcoming conference with the Senate BAPG, which was to be held at Wilton Park, 2-3 September.

11th August

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with Tim Cork, Deputy Consul General of the British Consulate-General Houston, to discuss his recent proposal for a specialist delegation visit to Texas and an impending visit to the UK by the Texas Secretary of State and the First Lady as well as a visit by a small delegation from Louisiana, comprising State representatives, businesses and civil society from the state, both scheduled in late September.

1st September

A briefing took place with the Parliamentarians taking part in the deferred 2021 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference with the Senate BAPG, 1-3 September in the UK. FCDO US Minister Rehman Chishti and officials attended the meeting to brief the Parliamentarians on the US, Ukraine and Russia.

1-3 September

The deferred 2021 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference took place with a delegation from the US Senate led by the Chair of the Senate BAPG, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Vice Chair, Senator John Boozman (R-AK). They were joined by Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA). The two delegations met in London and West Sussex over two days and wish to specially thank Wilton Park, Rolls Royce Motor Cars. Ltd., Goodwood House, the Pallant House Gallery and Knepp Wildland for their support of the programme.

7th September

At the request of the US Embassy, the BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP, and BAPG Executive Committee member, The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, met with a congressional delegation led by Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), who serves on the US House of Representatives rules subcommittee and the select committee on the modernization of Congress, accompanied by representatives from the modernization, rules, and House administration committees, who were visiting the UK to learn how Parliament functions and how it is modernizing, to help with their efforts to improve House operations.

26th September

The Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the Embassy of the United States of America, Ms. Rosemary Gallant, invited Officers and Members of the BAPG Executive Committee to a special reception in honour of the First Lady of the State of Texas, Cecilia Abbott, and the Secretary of the State of Texas, John B. Scott, and leaders of Economic Development of the State of Texas, held at the US Embassy London.

29th September

The BAPG Administrator met with Sara Burch Khairallah, Director of British Affairs of the Association of Marshall Scholars, to discuss respective programmes and opportunities for cooperation.

30th September

At the request of the Deputy Consul General of the British Consulate-General Houston, Tim Cork, the BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament for a small delegation from Louisiana, comprising state representatives, businesses and civil society.

18th October

BAPG Vice Chair, The Rt. Hon. Baroness Jay of Paddington, met virtually with John Della Volpe, Director of Polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, to discuss an upcoming special session on the 2022 US Midterm Elections planned for 20th October, although subsequently re-scheduled to 1st November, due to the resignation of Prime Minister Liz Truss on 20th October.

19th October

At the request of former Member of Congress George Holding (R-NC), the BAPG arranged a ticket to PMQs for Roger Kumpf, a staffer in the district office of Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC).

20th October

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, took part in a virtual call with Jeremy Wimble, Programme Manager, International Security Studies, at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) to discuss RUSI's support of the upcoming exchange with the House BAPG, 28-29 November 2022.

25th October

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place.

25th October

The BAPG partnered with BritishAmerican Business in hosting a reception for the new American Ambassador, Jane D. Hartley, in the Speaker's State Rooms, Speaker's House, by kind permission of the Speaker. Senior Executives from the BritishAmerican Business network joined BAPG members in meeting Ambassador Hartley who was accompanied by senior officials from the US Embassy.

26th October

Our friends at the London POTUS Group kindly extended an invitation to BAPG members to its online talk by Professor Iwan Morgan on FDR: Transforming the Presidency and Renewing America.

27th October

An Inter-Parliamentary Affairs forum took place which included the secretariats of the British-American Parliamentary Group and other Inter-Parliamentary Groups (CPA UK, BGIPU, BIPA). The Speaker's Office gave an update on Speaker Hoyle's interparliamentary work and priorities and the CPA UK and BGIPU also shared updates from the IPU annual session and CPA conference alongside how they leverage the participation of UK parliamentarians in these activities for wider aims.

1st November

The BAPG hosted a special online session with Harvard University's Director of Polling, John Della Volpe, on the 2022 US Midterm Elections, moderated by BAPG Vice Chair, The Rt Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington. The Event was originally planned for 20th October, but postponed due to Prime Minister Liz Truss' resignation that day.

John Della Volpe was one of the few Pollsters who came out well on the midterms predicting a much tighter result in which most other polling organizations overestimated the Republican gains.

8th November

The BAPG, in partnership with the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library, hosted a US Midterm Elections event with US election supremo Professor Phil Davies in conversation with three former Republican and Democrat Members of Congress on the 2022 US Midterm Elections and how they saw the final two years of the Biden Presidency.

The BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP, together with the Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, hosted the panellists and leads from the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library to dinner afterwards in the Adjournment Restaurant, Portcullis House.

16th November

The BAPG Administrator joined Professor Mark White, Director of the London POTUS Group, in viewing the River Room in the House of Lords as a possible venue for a collaborative panel discussion event with the Archives & History APPG (Chair: Chris Evans, MP) on John F Kennedy's life and presidency, scheduled on 27th June 2023.

17th November

The London POTUS Group hosted an online discussion with distinguished journalists Stephanie Baker, Senior Writer for Bloomberg, and Henry Chu, the Deputy News Editor for the Los Angeles Times in London, who discussed 'the 2022 Congressional Elections and the presidency of Joe Biden', to which BAPG members were specially invited.

23rd November

The BAPG Administrator took part in a preliminary meeting with collaborative partners, the London POTUS Group and the office of the Chair of the Archives & History APPG, Chris Evans, MP, to discuss preparations for the planned panel discussion event on John F Kennedy's life and presidency on 27th June 2023 in the River Room, House of Lords.

25th November

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, hosted a visit to Parliament by Mr. Mike Kuiken, National Security Adviser (NSA) to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and family. Mr. Spellar took the guests on a tour of Parliament followed by refreshments on the terrace and a visit to the Commons gallery.

25th November

The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP hosted a question-and-answer exchange with the 2022 intake of US Marshall Scholars as part of the Scholars' induction programme, which also included a tour of Parliament and a reception that evening hosted by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission to welcome the Scholar class of 2022.

28th November

The BAPG Administrator met with the Parliamentary Engagement Director, Engagement Manager and Engagement Lead of the National Audit Office (NAO) to discuss the timetable and planning for the

audit of the BAPG Accounts 2021-22. The audit is much delayed due to NAO resourcing issues post COVID.

30th November

The BAPG formally nominated Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chair of the Senate BAPG, for an honorary award (an OBE) to recognize his longstanding contribution to the bilateral relationship through his leadership of the US Senate British-American Parliamentary Group. He was originally appointed as Chair of the delegation in 2001 and has served as its chairman or lead Democrat since. He retires from Congress in January 2023.

The BAPG submitted its nomination to the Honours Secretariat at the FCDO together with letters of support from the British Ambassador to the US, Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG, and the Opposition Chief Whip of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Campbell, MP. The application also had the support of the Government Chief Whip of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Simon Hart, MP, who separately sent in a letter in support of Senator Leahy's nomination for an honorary award.

The Honours Secretariat has confirmed that the nomination will be given full consideration for the 2023 Birthday honours round.

6th December

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place.

7th December

The BAPG arranged two tickets to PMQs for Dave Parker, Professor of Politics at Montana State University, and Dr Alan Convery, Senior Lecturer in Politics at Edinburgh University, who are writing a book together on conservatism and the UK Conservative Party.

8-10 December

The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School welcomed four BAPG members: Stephen Hammond, MP; David Johnston, OBE, MP; Yvonne Fovargue, MP and Alex Norris, MP, to observe its bi-partisan programme for newly elected Members of Congress, held from Thursday, 8th December to Saturday, 10th December 2022. The programme involved 'issue seminars' and lectures by Harvard academics and eminent outside speakers.

The delegation have written a joint report on the visit which is available from the BAPG Administrator.

15th December

The BAPG Administrator met with DIT Parliamentary Engagement Managers, Naima Ahmed & Margaret Philipson, to discuss the BAPG programme of activities and possible collaborative opportunities.

20th December

The House of Commons Service Interparliamentary Engagement Strategy Steering Group met for the first time with the purpose of developing a strategy for House of Commons Service's interparliamentary engagement, chaired by Lynn Gardner, Clerk of IPRO. The BAPG Administrator attended as an observer.

The meeting considered a paper on context for the project and terms of reference for the Steering Group.

13-16 January 2023

The Association of Marshall Scholars hosted members of the United States Congress and members of the British Parliament for an annual bipartisan, cross-party, US-UK Legislative Exchange. The multi-day program included meetings with members of the British government, leaders in the private sector, academia and Marshall Scholars. The two delegations engaged in dialogue on issues of critical concern to both nations. Members of the BAPG Executive Committee and wider group took part in the exchange.

The BAPG Secretariat provided support and advice to the Association of Marshall Scholars with the arrangements for the exchange.

16th January

The Association of Marshall Scholars hosted a reception at Chatham House to bid farewell to the US congressional delegation who took part in the US-UK Legislative Exchange, to which BAPG Officers and members were invited.

18th January

The BAPG Administrator met with US Embassy political specialist, Justine Lancaster, and Sofia Cogliano, External Affairs Manager in the Chief Executive's Office at Wilton Park, at the US Embassy to discuss the upcoming collaborative reception on 28th February to be held in the Speaker's State Rooms.

20th January

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with the Chiefs of Staff to Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA) and Rep. Jennifer González-Colón (R-PR), the outgoing co-chairs of the US Women's Congressional Caucus, to discuss resumption of the US / UK Women Legislators Bilateral Exchange and an introduction to the new incoming co-chairs who were to be confirmed on 1st February 2023.

26th January

The LSE Phelan US Centre hosted 'Lessons from the Edge: a memoir'. In this wide-ranging conversation, Marie Yovanovitch, former US ambassador to Ukraine, discussed her best-selling memoir, Russia's war on Ukraine, and what the West needs to do next with Tomila Lankina and Peter Trubowitz. Hosted by the Phelan United States Centre, to which BAPG members were specially invited.

30th January

A second meeting of the House of Commons Service Interparliamentary Engagement Strategy Steering Group took place, chaired by Lynn Gardner, Clerk of IPRO, attended by the BAPG Administrator, as an observer. Consideration was given to a revised draft strategy.

2nd February

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-UK Business Council brought a delegation of executives to London including 15 senior executives from a range of sectors representing major U.S. investors in the UK. Companies represented included: Abbott, AIG, Apple, Brown-Forman, Caterpillar, Cigna, Dow,

Google, Exxon Mobil, JPMorgan Chase, Liberty Mutual, MetLife, Morgan Stanley, Pfizer, PhRMA, Shopify, TransUnion, and Zimmer Biomet. The delegation met with 11 members of the BAPG from both Houses of Parliament to discuss a diverse set of trade related issues.

2nd February

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with the LSE Phelan US Centre to discuss a possible collaborative opportunity. As part of its work on climate change this year the LSE Phelan US Centre was planning to hold an essay competition for Master's students with the prompt, 'What responsibility does the US have to the rest of the world on climate change?' As a way to engage students with MPs and the policymaking process, the LSE Phelan US Centre invited the BAPG to host a presentation of the winning essay.

We are grateful to BAPG members, The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark, MP (Chair, Select Committee on Science and Technology) and Matt Western, MP (Shadow Minister for Higher Education) for hosting the presentation in Parliament on 19th April to which BAPG members with an interest in climate change were invited to attend. The attendees engaged with the essay competition winner Oscar Parry and runner-up, Jibran Raja, in a robust Q&A session which highlighted the value of hearing the voice and insights of students on important issues.

16th February

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, attended a wreath laying ceremony at President Lincoln's statue on Parliament Square to mark US Presidents' Day organized by the White House Historical Association in partnership with the US Embassy as part of an international initiative to lay wreaths at Presidential statues and monuments around the world to honour the history of American presidents globally and bring attention to the meaningful leadership that each of these statues represent.

20th February

The BAPG hosted a visit by senior Hill staffers from the two committees of jurisdiction on trade policy (the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees) including two representatives from House Leadership offices (House Majority Leader Scalise and House Democratic Whip Katherine Clark).

The British Embassy Washington DC sponsored the trip to educate the staffers about the UK, the strength of the bilateral relationship, as well as why the US should look for opportunities to increase the bilateral trade and investment relationship (e.g. FTA).

We are grateful to Rehman Chisti, MP, Yvonne Fovaruge, MP, Chi Onwurah, MP and the Lord Haselhurst for giving the time to meet the delegation. The BAPG hosted a short tour of Parliament and informal drinks in the Stranger's Bar followed by a visit to the Commons gallery to watch a debate on Ukraine at which the Chair recognized the delegation in the gallery.

28th February

The BAPG, in partnership with Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, hosted a reception event to 'Highlight the Transatlantic Relationship' in the Speaker's State Rooms, with kind support from Virgin Atlantic.

The American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, joined Shanker Singham, CEO of Competere, in

conversation on the state of the transatlantic relationship, which was followed by a networking reception.

The event was a great opportunity to connect with people across government, members of the diplomatic corps, media, academia, business, as well as other key stakeholders with an interest in the US-UK relationship.

6th March

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with HOC Finance to discuss the timetable for preparation of the BAPG 2022/23 annual accounts.

7th March

An Interparliamentary affairs forum took place, including the BAPG Secretariat, to hear from IPRO and CPA UK about how they develop their business plans, to update on the HOC service interparliamentary strategy and discuss the future of the interparliamentary affairs forum.

7th March

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place (re-scheduled from 7th February 2023).

13th March

At the request of the British Consulate General Chicago, the BAPG hosted a delegation of US Midwest state legislators visiting the UK on a trade focused mission in partnership with the [Council of State Governments \(CSG\)](#). The BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament for the delegation followed by a meeting with BAPG members. We are most grateful to The Rt. Hon. the Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate for chairing the meeting, who was joined by: The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP; Yvonne Fovargue, MP; Daniel Zeichner, MP and The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst.

While in the UK, the delegation visited the Cambridge area for agriculture & agri-tech engagement and the Hull area for offshore wind, hydrogen & CCUS engagement, which was underpinned by policy briefings from relevant government departments.

14th March

The LSE Phelan United States Centre hosted a hybrid event titled 'Waning Globalisation' with Professor Pinelopi Goldberg, former Chief Economist of the World Bank Group, who discussed the causes and implications of the retreat from globalization for growth and inequality, to which BAPG members were specially invited to attend.

21st March

A pre-departure briefing meeting took place (hybrid) with participants of the upcoming BAPG visit to Texas, 2-6 April, and the Consul General of the British Consulate General Houston, Richard Hyde, chaired by The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP.

22nd March

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, hosted [Lt. General Mary O'Brien](#), the Director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4)/Cyber, and Chief Information Officer, J6, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, visiting the UK with the British Embassy Washington DC

and the MOD. Mr. Spellar gave Lt. General O'Brien a short tour of Parliament followed by drinks in the Stranger's Bar where they were joined by colleagues interested to meet Lt. General O'Brien.

22nd March

Our friend, the London POTUS Group, hosted Sir Max Hastings, former BBC foreign correspondent, editor of the Daily Telegraph and Evening Standard and distinguished historian, who gave a talk on John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, to which BAPG members were specially invited.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP DURING 2022-2023 (not subject to audit)

The Annual General Meeting of the Group took place on 6th July 2022. The Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, The Rt. Hon. Nigel Evans, MP, took the chair in the absence of the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, who was otherwise detained.

It was reported that the 12 months from April 2021 to April 2022 had been another testing year due to the COVID-19 pandemic although the successful vaccination programme brought with it a gradual easing of restrictions in both the UK and US with the UK opening its borders in early August 2021, followed by the US in early November 2021, although exchanges with the US Congress took a little longer to come round. The BAPG welcomed its first US Members of Congress to Parliament in February 2022 and sent a Parliamentary delegation to Washington DC in late March 2022 (12 Parliamentarians).

During the 12 months to April 2023, there had been one Annual Conference in the UK, the deferred 2021 Annual Conference, with a delegation from the US Senate. We had also hoped to host the 2022 Annual Conference with a delegation from the US House of Representatives, following the US Midterm Elections, but in the end had to defer the meeting due to the House BAPG not being able to field a delegation in time. In all, 18 members had visited the US during the year under the auspices of the BAPG.

The 2021 deferred Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference was held in London and West Sussex from 1-3 September 2022 with a delegation from the US Senate. While we had at one time expected nine Senators to take part in the exchange, several Senators cancelled last minute for a mix of reasons, and in the end six Senators came accompanied by their spouses and staff.

The British delegation was led by the Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, The Rt. Hon. Nigel Evans, MP, and the Shadow Foreign Secretary and BAPG Vice President, The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP.

The other members of the delegation were as follows:

Government	Opposition Parties
Harriett Baldwin, MP (Conservative)	The Rt. Hon. Liam Byrne, MP (Labour)
Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Conservative)	The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP (Labour)
The Baroness Helic (Conservative)	The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP (Labour)
Andrew Griffith, MP (Conservative) <i>Friday, 2nd September only</i>	The Lord Fox (Liberal Democrat)
Timothy Loughton, MP (Conservative) <i>Saturday, 3rd September only</i>	

Ms. Hannah Mitchell (BAPG Secretariat) and Mrs. Andrea Pull (conference support) accompanied the delegation.

The United States Senate delegation was led by Senate BAPG Chair, Senator Patrick Leahy (Democrat, Vermont), President pro tempore of the US Senate and chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate BAPG Vice Chair, Senator John Boozman (Republican, Arkansas), Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Committee on the Environment and Public Works.

The other members of the delegation were:

Democrat	Republican
Senator Bernie Sanders (Vermont)	Senator Richard C. Shelby (Alabama)
	Senator John Cornyn (Texas)
	Senator Pat Toomey (Pennsylvania)
	<i>Thursday, 1st September only</i>

The conference opened on Thursday evening, 1st September, with a formal reception and dinner in the Pugin Room and Strangers' Dining Room in the House of Commons.

The two delegations were delighted to be joined by colleagues:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Howard of **Lympne**, CH, QC, BAPG Vice President;
The Rt. Hon. Ed **Miliband**, MP, BAPG Vice President;
The Rt. Hon. John **Healey**, MP, BAPG Opposition Vice Chair;
Rehman **Chishti**, MP, Minister for North America, Sanctions & Consular Policy (and former BAPG Executive Committee member).

and representatives of the Diplomatic corps:

Hon. Matthew Palmer, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy, accompanied by Mr. Jay Porter and Ms. Justine Lancaster of the Political Section at the Embassy;
Mr. Rob Tinline, Director of the US and Canada Department, FCDO;
Mr. Nicholas Alton, Deputy Director and Head of the US and Canada Department, FCDO;
Mr. Tom Newton, Deputy Head of US and Canada Department, FCDO.

It was a warm and convivial evening and we are most grateful to the Lord **Howard** of Lympne who gave an amusing and moving speech on behalf of the BAPG, with replies from Senator Boozman and Senator Shelby.

There were three discussion sessions over the following two days, with the first session held the next morning at Rolls-Royce Goodwood, the luxury car maker, and the second and third sessions were conducted on Saturday at Wilton Park, a government conference centre, set in the South Downs National Park.

In the first session, conducted in the Rolls Royce conference boardroom, the two delegations discussed 'international trade and the global economy', namely:

- Prospects for a US-UK trade agreement.
- Future of UK-EU relations, Northern Ireland protocol.

- Illicit finance, anti-money laundering, sanctions, corruption and decoupling in the tech space.
- Global food security and the issues surrounding food shortages and supply chain and what that means moving forward.
- The fall-out from energy dependency in Europe, deals with Saudi Arabia, consequences for the climate.
- Economic challenges post pandemic: the war in Ukraine; rising inflation; rising energy prices; supply chain issues and the role of China.
- How do we grow the alliance, the democratic rules-based order, in this challenging age?

After which the two delegations were joined by Rolls Royce Executives who gave a presentation on the Rolls Royce business and its transition to electric vehicles, with production of its first zero emissions vehicle, the Spectre, due for release in 2023. The legislators were then taken on a tour of its production facility where they were able to watch the assembly of vehicles bound for the US with their distinctive orange leather interior. We are most grateful to Rolls Royce for hosting the two delegations and for their generous hospitality while there.

The second conference session conducted on Saturday morning at Wilton Park covered 'Defence / Security Cooperation and Foreign Affairs' related issues:

- Ukraine – Ukraine defence, UK / Western support to Ukraine, defence of industrial supply, challenges in sustaining that support.
- Russia.
- NATO: UK engagement in Europe via NATO;
The recent NATO Summit, the new Strategic Concept and the military requirements to implement the concept.
- US/UK policy and co-operation in the Western Balkans.
- Security beyond NATO: with the Indo-Pacific tilt and the huge challenges that America has with China, does Europe have to do more in Europe, is there a security architecture that supports and supplements NATO?
- AUKUS and the UK in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad).
- China.
- Information Warfare.

The third and final discussion session on Saturday afternoon centred on 'Transatlantic relations and the political outlook in the US and UK', specifically:

- Transatlantic relations past, present and future.
- UK relations with the EU.
- Integration, immigration, identity, race.
- The current political scene in the US and UK and outlook for the future.

While the discussion sessions were underway, there was a separate programme for those accompanying the delegations, with a visit to Goodwood House (built circa 1600) on the first morning where the party met the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and were given a private tour of the House and its art and porcelain collections, before heading into Winchester for lunch and a tour of the Pallant House Gallery, an 18th century house and permanent collection of modern British and contemporary art, hosted by the gallery Director, Mr. Simon Martin. The following day, the accompanying persons

visited the Wiston Estate Winery for a tour where they met the owner of the winery and estate Harry Goring who had joined them for dinner the previous evening at Wiston House together with his wife Pip Goring. After the winery the accompanying persons returned to Wiston House to view a curated display by The National Archives of correspondence between past US Presidents and British Prime Ministers which the two US and UK legislators were able to see before the final discussion session on transatlantic relations.

That evening the two delegations travelled to nearby Knepp Wildland where they heard about its successful rewilding project from the estate manager Mr. Jason Emrich and resident Ecologist Ms. Penny Green before joining them on safari to view the estate and its wildlife. On their return the two delegations enjoyed a farewell dinner beside the lake and barn with Knepp produce and local wines. They departed at dusk returning direct to London, marking the end of the meeting.

Our extensive thanks are due to the North America Department at the Foreign Office for all their support and assistance with the conference including preparing written briefings for the British delegation.

In addition to the conference, there were the following visits to the US:

- In May 2022, the BAPG sent six members to San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles to look at zero emission & autonomous vehicles policy, regulation, and commercial opportunity, arranged by the British Consulates General San Francisco and Los Angeles, in conjunction with the BAPG.
- In July 2022, after a hiatus of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, eight members with no or little prior experience of the US, went to the United States with the BAPG to take part in a US government co-sponsored 'International Visitor Leadership Programme' to learn about the American political system at the federal, state and local levels, with emphasis on the role and organisation of Congress.
- In early December 2022, four members attended the Harvard University Institute of Politics' Bi-Partisan Programme for Newly Elected Members of Congress as observers. The British Members of Parliament are the only foreign legislators invited to observe the programme and it provides an unrivalled opportunity for members to develop contacts with new Members of Congress at the start of their careers. The programme comprises intensive seminars on major public policy issues such as foreign policy, health care and the Federal budget, led by prominent scholars and practitioners representing viewpoints from across the political spectrum and workshops focused on the "how" of getting things done in Washington, led by current and former senior officials from Congress, the White House, cabinet departments, regulatory agencies, and the national media.

In October 2022, the BAPG partnered with BritishAmerican Business in co-hosting a reception for the new American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, in the Speaker's State Rooms by kind permission of Mr. Speaker. Ambassador Hartley brought along with her 19 senior members of staff from the Embassy to meet Parliamentarians and leaders of US / UK business to establish contacts and discuss matters of common interest. BAB arranged payment of the refreshment costs.

In February 2023, the BAPG in partnership with Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, hosted a reception event 'Highlighting the Transatlantic Relationship' in the Speaker's State Rooms, with kind support from Virgin Atlantic.

The American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, joined Shanker Singham, CEO of Competere, in conversation on the state of the transatlantic relationship, which was followed by a networking reception.

Over the year, the BAPG has been pleased to host VIPs from the United States at the request of the Foreign Office, the American Embassy or directly from the offices of U.S. legislators. Arrangements were also made for the Marshall Scholars to visit Parliament and to meet with a Parliamentarian for a question and answer exchange.

Contact with the United States Embassy in London has been well maintained throughout the year and a significant part of our programme is dependent on good liaison with both the U.S. Embassy and the Foreign Office. Our extensive thanks are due to the North America Department at the Foreign Office for the very informative briefings which they are always kind enough to provide for BAPG delegations and to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Consulates across the USA for their very great input into the programmes arranged for our delegations. We are grateful for all their very considerable help that they give to the BAPG thereby enabling us to maintain our programme from year to year.

We are also extremely grateful to the Speaker of the House of Commons and CPA-UK who kindly provide gallery tickets for visiting Americans.

Members may wish to be reminded that information about the Group's forthcoming activities can be found on the All Party Whip from time to time. We also e-mail members to alert them to BAPG notices on the All Party Whip.

Members who need further information should telephone 020 7219 6209 or e-mail bapg@parliament.uk. The Group's office is at Richmond House on the Parliamentary estate.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY 2022 AT 3.30 P.M.
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM**

The Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker, The Rt. Hon. Nigel Evans, MP, welcomed everyone to the AGM and apologised that the Speaker was not in the chair as he was otherwise detained and had asked him to do it, which he was privileged to do.

The Deputy Speaker drew members' attention to the list of Apologies set out on the chairs.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were conveyed from the Prime Minister together with 20 others.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated in the Annual Report at pages 34-41, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting, which were not due for discussion under a later item.

4. To Receive the Annual Report from the Executive Committee for April 2021 to April 2022 and the Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2022

The Chair advised that although this came under one agenda item, it was in fact in two parts: the first being the Annual Report and the second being the Accounts.

The Chair called on The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP, Joint Honorary Vice Chair, to report on the work of the group during the period April 2021 to April 2022.

Mr. Healey first wished to say on behalf of the Executive Committee and the membership that they were very pleased to have the Deputy Speaker chair and expressed warm thanks for doing it.

Mr. Healey reported that the Annual Report was quite a substantial document and members will find the Report on the Work of the Group from April 2021 to April 2022 on pages 29-33 in the Annual Report.

Mr. Healey drew out some highlights from the report. It was principally a year badly affected by the pandemic. We were again hugely restricted in our normal course of activities, both the exchanges and the events, that we would normally undertake. As the COVID restrictions lifted, we were able to reintroduce in-person meetings and most importantly in-person exchanges, although they took a little longer. It was in February this year that we were able to welcome the first US Members of Congress to Parliament and it was in March this year that we sent our first delegation of UK Parliamentarians, since before COVID, across to the United States, to Washington DC.

In this year, we had originally planned and budgeted to send 12 Parliamentarians to the US by way of the US government co-sponsored legislative exchange (eight members) and an ad hoc thematic specialist delegation visit (four members), bearing in mind it was the British BAPG's turn to host the Annual Conference in the UK. We were actually still able to send 12 Parliamentarians to the US, but by way of the deferred 2020 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference, which took place in Washington DC in March with the US House of Representatives BAPG, hosted by the House BAPG Chair, Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin), and the House Speaker, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-California). This was made possible by the Parliamentary Budget Holders permitting the group to carry over funds budgeted for the 2020 Annual Conference and the annual legislative exchange from 2020-21 financial year and combining the two budgets so that it was possible to field a larger delegation to take part in the exchange with the House BAPG (in light of there being no visits to the US for the past two years). We wish to send our thanks and appreciation to the Parliamentary budget holders for their understanding and cooperation during these difficult times in allowing the Group to roll over funds to facilitate visits when the circumstances next allowed.

The Parliamentary delegation who took part in the visit to Washington DC at the end of March 2022 was led by BAPG Vice President, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Howard of Lympne, QC, and BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP. They reported an extraordinarily well timed visit with international events (the Russian war in Ukraine) reminding the Americans of how much we bring to the table and how close the relationship is. The delegation were made to feel very welcome and the special relationship was evident in the warmth of the personal relationships with the different Members of Congress and officials they engaged with.

Throughout the year, the BAPG has partnered with like interested organisations to co-host events for its members:

In July 2021, the British-American Parliamentary Group hosted a webinar event with the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan American think tank which provides information on social issues, public opinion and demographic trends shaping the US and the world, and discussed the Center's latest findings on the international attitudes towards Joe Biden, including several of his major policy initiatives, and how America's reputation has changed in the post-Trump period.

In September 2021, The BAPG partnered with BritishAmerican Business to co-host an online panel discussion event on the 'Essentials of Free Flowing Data Transfers' with senior leaders from US and UK business and US and UK legislators, including Senator Dr. Bill Cassidy (Republican, Louisiana), member of the Senate Finance Committee and the United States Senate Joint Economic Committee, and Darren Jones, MP, Chair of the Select Committee on Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

In February, the BAPG sponsored a transatlantic roundtable discussion event on black equity, wealth creation and inequality risk, hosted by the UCL Centre for U.S. Politics (CUSP) and the US Embassy at the US Embassy offices. BAPG Executive Committee member, Chi Onwurah, MP, joined US Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, and US Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-Virgin Islands), Member of House Ways and Means

Committee and House Budget Committee, in discussion, moderated by Professor Keith Magee, University College London CUSP.

Finally, on International Women's Day in March 2022, the BAPG hosted the first US/UK women legislators' bilateral exchange. The opening event of an online series dedicated to exploring issues of common interest between women legislators on both sides of the Atlantic discussed 'Threats and violence against holders of public office'. The meeting was attended by three Members of Congress who lead the US Congressional Women's Caucus: Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA, Co-Chair), Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR, Co-Chair) and Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA, Co-Vice Chair).

While it was not possible to hold a reception this year for the new American Ambassador, Jane Hartley, due to her confirmation hearing being held up in the Senate, the BAPG Executive Committee were delighted to host US Charge d'Affaires, Ambassador Philip T Reeker, for an informal discussion following its quarterly meeting in February 2022.

With the gradual easement of COVID restrictions, the BAPG has been able to arrange meetings/tours/lunches for visiting U.S. Members of Congress/State legislators/other visiting US VIPs and this is a part of the Group's role which we are always keen to expand and develop.

The Group's complete list of activities for the year are shown on pages 24 to 28 in the Annual Report. They show the contribution the Group has made over the year to promoting good relations with the US and the role which the Group has played in the programmes of American visitors.

Mr. Healey paid tribute to the co-operation which the Group had received over the year from the American Embassy, particularly from the Political and Cultural Affairs Departments, and also for the support from the Charge d'Affaires, a.i. of the US Embassy, Philip Reeker. We are also indebted to the North America Department at the FCDO and to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. on whom a significant part of our programme is dependent. The British Embassy is particularly helpful when it comes to arranging meetings and other aspects of any programme for BAPG delegations to Washington D.C. as are the Consuls-General in other parts of the US.

Last and absolutely not least and absolutely essential we could not undertake any of these events or these exchanges without the support and work of Hannah in the BAPG Secretariat.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair and signposted that he would seek a Proposer and a Seconder for formal motions for both the reports at the end but will now go onto the Accounts and called The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, Joint Honorary Treasurer, to move the adoption of the accounts, which had been circulated to all members of the Group and appear on pages 3-23 in the Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2021-2022.

It was noted that the Group's auditors, The National Audit Office, had not yet audited the BAPG Accounts 2021-22, which is expected later in the year. Accordingly, the adoption of the Accounts is subject to their certification by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Mr. Spellar thanked the chair and wished to clarify in respect of the visit to Washington DC in March just mentioned by John Healey that he had replaced Kevan Jones as opposition chair at the last minute due to Kevan Jones testing positive for COVID two days before departure and had to rapidly re-arrange.

As the chair had rightly said, the Accounts had not yet been audited by the NAO and so the decision today will be to adopt those accounts subject to final certification by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

If we go through the details, members can see that we have bank accounts with RBS, NatWest and Nationwide and that balance is £146,000 held between those different accounts. That's reduced slightly because we are actually starting to spend money now which of course we were not able to do in the previous years.

If we then look at the Accounts members will see in respect of the Operating Income and Cost that we had a considerable surplus in 2020-21 but in 2021-22 it shows a slight loss for exactly that reason that we are starting now to undertake activities again.

Budgeted expenditure was £125,000, only £100,00 was spent, that's about 20% less.

If we look at the income and expenditure, members can see there are various details, if people want to raise those: administrative costs, programme expenditure. Income has reduced from the previous year with a decrease mainly due to a reduction in the amount drawn from the available parliamentary grant. And then on the financial position, obviously a number of items there.

Finally, Mr. Spellar recorded the Group's appreciation of the grant received each year from the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission, without which it would not be possible to maintain a programme.

The Chair thanked Mr. Spellar. He invited any questions on either the Annual Report or the Accounts, of which there were none. He asked for a Proposer, Rehman Chishti, and a Seconder, Lord Balfe. There was unanimous agreement to accept the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22, subject to their certification by the Auditor General.

5. To Ratify Vice-Presidents and Officers proposed by the Executive Committee

The Chair announced that the Executive Committee had recommended that the following should be re-elected as Vice-Presidents of the Group:

The Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret **Beckett**, DBE, MP
The Rt. Hon. Ian **Blackford**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Baroness **Boothroyd**, OM
The Rt. Hon. Sir Iain **Duncan Smith**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Falconer** of Thoroton, QC
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Hague** of Richmond
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Howard** of Lympne, CH, QC

The Rt. Hon. Jeremy **Hunt**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Jopling**, DL
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Mackay** of Clashfern, KT
The Rt. Hon. Ed **Miliband**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Andrew **Mitchell**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Morris** of Aberavon, KG, QC
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Owen**, CH
The Rt. Hon. Dominic **Raab**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir **Starmer**, KCB, QC, MP

And that, The Rt. Hon. Liz **Truss** MP, in her position as Foreign Secretary, is elected as Vice President, as is the tradition with Foreign Secretaries, and The Rt. Hon. David **Lammy**, MP, in his role as Shadow Foreign Secretary, also be elected as a Vice President.

The Chair put forward a formal motion that they be passed, which was unanimously agreed.

Lord Balfe brought to the AGM's attention that Lord Mackay of Clashfern is retiring from the House of Lords this summer after many years' service and we might send him our good wishes. He is retiring at 96 years of age. The Chair thought it a great idea and that the committee's thanks to him should also be minuted.

The Chair then moved on to the Officers of the Group, seeking to formally ratify their appointments in their respective roles.

Both the two Vice Chairs from the House of Commons, **The Rt. Hon. Ben Wallace, MP**, Government Vice Chair, and **The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP**, Opposition Vice Chair, had completed the second year of three-year terms. We are most grateful to them both for chairing meetings of the Executive Committee and for the interest which they have both shown in the group in spite of their very many other commitments.

The Vice Chair from the House of Lords, **The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington**, has completed her first year of a three year term. We are most grateful to Baroness Jay for her support of the group's affairs, participating in Parliamentary / Congressional conferences and chairing online briefings and discussion events for the Group.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP, the Honorary Secretary, has completed his seventh year in that office, which has a maximum term of eight years. The Group has been very fortunate to have such a hard- working Honorary Secretary who gives an enormous amount of his time to the Group's affairs.

We are also extremely pleased that **The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP** and **Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP** are both content to continue in their roles as Joint Honorary Treasurers. They both give a considerable amount of time to the Group's affairs and the hard work which they have done and continue to do is very much appreciated.

The Chair put the motion to the meeting that those Officers should be approved for the year ahead, asking if everyone was content or against. There was unanimous agreement that the Officers be approved.

6 To Elect 18 Members to serve on the Executive Committee 2022-23

The Chair advised that under Rule 8a, 18 members were to be elected to the Executive Committee, consisting of 12 members from the House of Commons – of which there were to be six members from the Government Party and six members from the Opposition Parties – and six members from the House of Lords, the proportion of which, is determined by the Lord Speaker and representatives of the parties and groups in the House. That being: two Conservative, two Labour, one Cross Bench and one Liberal Democrat.

In relation to the election of members from the House of Commons, as we had received only six nominations from the Government Party and only six nominations from the Opposition Parties for the Committee this year, the following members were elected unopposed to serve on the Executive Committee until the AGM in 2023:

Government

Rehman **Chishti**, MP
Philip **Davies**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Chris **Grayling**, MP
Stephen **Hammond**, MP
Jack **Lopresti**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Esther **McVey**, MP

Opposition

Yvonne **Fovargue**, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana **Johnson**, DBE, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. Kevan **Jones**, MP (Labour)
Conor **McGinn**, MP (Labour)
Gavin **Newlands**, MP (SNP)
Chi **Onwurah**, MP (Labour)

In relation to the House of Lords, as we were not oversubscribed for the places available, the following members were elected unopposed to represent the House of Lords on the Executive Committee until the AGM in 2023:

Conservative

The Lord **Kirkhope** of Harrogate
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Haselhurst**

Labour

The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Anderson** of Swansea, DL
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen, KT GCMG

Crossbench

The Earl of **Devon**

Liberal Democrat

The Lord **Fox**

The Committee would like to take this opportunity record its warm thanks to Douglas **Chapman**, MP (SNP), who had stepped down from the committee after four years of service. We are most appreciative of the support he has given and hope he will continue to take an active interest in the affairs of the Group.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair called on the Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP, who wished to make some announcements.

Sir Greg wished to mention a few items:

17-22 July

After a hiatus of two years, eight Members of Parliament, with no or little prior experience of America, will travel to the United States to take part in an annual US government sponsored International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP), to learn about the US legislative process. The programme will open in Washington DC and comprise an overview of the federal system of government and how the various branches of government interact. This will be followed by meetings at key US government departments and with congressional counterparts. The middle weekend will be spent with a Member of Congress in his/her home district and the final two days will be spent in Boston where the participants will reunite to examine a state capital legislature and other issues of interest. The BAPG pays for transatlantic flights, daily subsistence and hotel accommodation. The US Department of State covers all internal flights, ground transport and arranges the programme.

1-3 September

The deferred 2021 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference will take place in London and West Sussex with a delegation from the US Senate, led by Senator Patrick Leahy (Democrat-Vermont), the current President pro tempore of the United States Senate and Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator John Boozman (Republican-Arkansas), who currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and Ranking Member of the Senate Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) Appropriations Subcommittee. They will be joined by Senator Richard Shelby (Republican, Alabama), Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations committee, and other Senators will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

A Parliamentary delegation has recently been confirmed to take part in the exchange.

The conference will open with a reception and dinner in the House of Commons on Thursday, 1st September, followed by a two day programme in West Sussex, with a discussion on international trade and the global economy arranged at Rolls Royce Goodwood and sessions on defence/security cooperation, foreign affairs and US / UK relations and the political outlook in the US and UK to be held at Wilton Park (an executive agency of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, which provides a global forum for strategic discussion between representatives of politics, diplomacy, business, academia, civil society and the media).

14th September

We are currently holding the Speaker's State Rooms on this date for an event with Wilton Park, which was originally postponed from 21st June, due to the rail and tube strikes. The event is a networking reception on the theme of the 'Transatlantic Relationship' and will be an opportunity for BAPG members to connect with people across government, media, academia, business, as well as other key stakeholders with an interest in the US-UK relationship. On confirmation of the date, we will re-advertise the event to BAPG members, inviting interest. As there is very limited space at the venue, we will have to restrict the event on a first come first served basis.

9-11 October

The Chair of the US House of Representatives BAPG, Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin), has asked if we may be able to host a final BAPG exchange in the UK this fall before he retires. The proposed dates, 9-11 October, fall during the conference recess, but we hope to be able to facilitate the exchange, subject to final confirmation. Any members interested to take part in the exchange should please register their interest with the BAPG Secretariat.

25th October

While waiting for the new US Ambassador, Jane Hartley, to be confirmed in the Senate, we have been holding the date 25th October to host a welcome reception for her in the Speaker's State Rooms and now that she is finally here we are waiting to hear back from the US Embassy if we may proceed with the event on this date. Members may like to hold the date in the meantime. On confirmation, we will invite members to let us know if they would like to attend. As there is very limited space at the venue, we will have to restrict the event on a first come first served basis.

Late November / Early December

The BAPG is to send four Parliamentarians to Harvard University to observe the bi-partisan programme for newly elected Members of Congress (as elected at the Midterms on 8th November), conducted by the Institute of Politics at the John F Kennedy School of Government. It will be an opportunity for the Parliamentarians to meet and make contacts with new Members of Congress and also to learn about major public policy issues such as foreign policy, health care and the Federal budget, via intensive seminars and lectures by prominent scholars and practitioners representing viewpoints from across the political spectrum. The visit will be advertised to BAPG members in due course, inviting expressions of interest.

Through the Chair, Sir Greg thanked Ben Wallace, John Healey, John Spellar and Sir Christopher Chope and Hannah for the work they have done during the year and for the support they have given to him.

In closing, Sir Greg reminded members that Group functions/visits are always advertised by means of the All-Party & Associated Group Notices, the BAPG website www.bapg.org.uk and via email to the BAPG membership.

The Chair thanked Sir Greg and invited any questions about the forward programme, of which there were none.

The Chair asked members if they had any other business that they wish to raise before he closed the meeting.

The Chair thanked Hannah for all the work that she does, which was much greatly appreciated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.52pm

X--X