



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION
2025

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The Secretariat of the British Group IPU

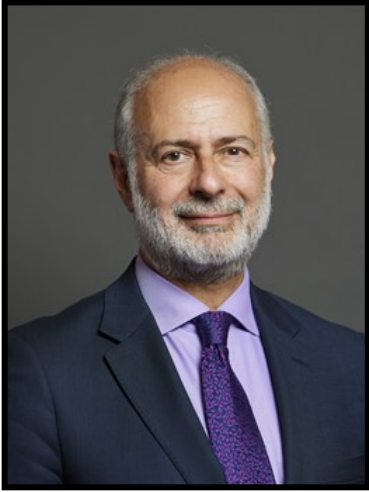
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BGIPU Chair Fabian Hamilton MP speaking at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2025.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



Fabian Hamilton
MP

Chair, BGIPU

The past year has been one of both continuity and challenge for the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU). Against a backdrop of sustained global instability from Russia's ongoing illegal aggression in Ukraine, to escalating conflict and humanitarian crises in the Middle East, and the continued erosion of confidence in multilateral institutions, BGIPU has once again demonstrated the enduring value of parliamentary diplomacy. In such times, the ability of parliamentarians to meet face-to-face, to exchange perspectives and to advocate for peace, democracy and justice is of profound importance.

I have been grateful in our work for the support of many parliamentary colleagues from both Houses both on the Executive Committee of the BGIPU and as members of delegations which I have led, or which have reported back to us on their experiences. At its heart, BGIPU remains a members' organisation and it is the encouragement and feedback of members which best enables us to measure the success of our programme.

Since the time of our last AGM, BGIPU sent outward delegations to Qatar, Hungary, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Moldova, Morocco and Mongolia. Each of these visits reflected UK foreign policy priorities and provided opportunities for parliamentarians to gain direct insights into economic, political and security developments in key partner countries.

Two additional outward visits in autumn 2025 to the Dominican Republic and Senegal also further broadened the geographic and thematic reach of our programme, deepening inter-parliamentary understanding across the Caribbean and West Africa. Feedback from participants, the FCDO and other stakeholders confirmed the value of

these visits in strengthening parliamentary and people-to-people ties, particularly on issues such as climate resilience, education, trade and democratic governance.

We were also active in receiving inward delegations over the same period. BGIPU hosted in the Palace of Westminster colleagues from Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Jordan and Spain on formal bilateral visits. These exchanges remain among the most valued elements of BGIPU's work, allowing visiting parliamentarians to engage directly with Members of both Houses, select committees and All-Party Parliamentary Groups to better understand the functioning of the UK Parliament and its role in upholding democratic values while exchanging views on bilateral, regional and international events.

A further ten shorter programmes termed "Days in Parliament" were also arranged by BGIPU during the year, welcoming guests from Colombia, Australia, Armenia, the Republic of Korea, Mexico and Argentina, among others. These visits provided an accessible introduction to Westminster's practices and often laid the groundwork for more substantive cooperation in other contexts.

BGIPU's extensive engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) remains a cornerstone of our international work, ensuring that the UK Parliament's voice continues to shape global parliamentary debate and uphold democratic norms. The 150th IPU Assembly, held in Tashkent under the theme "Parliamentary Action for Social Development and Justice: Building a Sustainable Future for All," was one of the most consequential in recent years. The Assembly adopted the Tashkent Declaration, calling on parliaments worldwide to intensify efforts to combat inequality, safeguard human rights and promote inclusive growth.

Two landmark resolutions were adopted by the Assembly. The first reaffirmed the commitment of parliaments across the world to a Two-State Solution in Palestine, calling for the protection of civilians and greater parliamentary support for peace and humanitarian access. The second focused on Mitigating the Long-Lasting Impacts of Conflict on

Sustainable Development, urging stronger parliamentary oversight of post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation and accountability processes.

The Tashkent Assembly also marked 40 years of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, launching the “Achieving Gender Equality: Action by Action” campaign to accelerate women’s representation in politics. The UK delegation which I was proud to lead for the first time had some fifteen bilateral meetings, including with counterparts from Canada, Ukraine, Israel, Jordan, Germany and Senegal, reinforcing the UK’s reputation as an engaged and constructive parliamentary partner.

Six months later, the 151st IPU Assembly took place in Geneva, fittingly described as “the birthplace of the Geneva Conventions.” The overarching theme – “Parliamentary Support for Humanitarian Action” – saw almost 600 MPs from 129 countries reaffirm their shared responsibility to uphold humanitarian norms and defend human dignity. The Assembly adopted the Geneva Declaration on Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action, a powerful statement recognising the role of parliaments in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law, ensuring accountability and protecting humanitarian workers and civilians in conflict.

The UK delegation made influential interventions in debates on humanitarian assistance, hybrid threats and the integrity of intercountry adoption systems. Two resolutions were adopted by the Assembly: one addressing illegal intercountry adoption, and another on transnational crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats, emphasising the global need for legislative cooperation and technological resilience. UK Members also contributed substantively to debates on climate action, particularly highlighting methane reduction and the importance of science-based targets where the UK House of Lords has been providing a world leading example.

Throughout the Assembly, the UK delegation engaged extensively in bilateral diplomacy, pressing for peace in Ukraine, advocating humanitarian access in Gaza, and supporting mediation efforts in other

regions including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The election of Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP to the IPU Executive Committee further strengthened the UK's institutional influence within the IPU's leadership structure at a crucial time given growing international instability and uncertainty where the IPU must be more accountable and advance core global values it has long championed.

In terms of BGIPU's other key activities in the IPU, it has remained highly active in the 12 Plus Group, playing a prominent leadership role in its steering committee, including on approaches to major policy issues and emergency items, in support of the excellent Presidency of our Swiss colleague, Laurent Wehrli and in close cooperation with many of our key European and other Western partners.

A vital task before the IPU in the coming months will be the selection of the next IPU Secretary General. This will set the IPU's future direction and effectiveness in a world in which many similar multilateral institutions are perceived to be failing to protect and serve the interests of the world's most vulnerable groups. Such perceptions risk increased scepticism and disenchantment among the general public.

BGIPU also successfully supported the participation of the Speakers of both Houses in the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva in late July 2025 as well as participation in a wide range of other high profile IPU events such as the IPU/UN parliamentary hearing in New York in February 2025, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March, the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held on 14-15 March in Mexico City.

The Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue held in June in Rome and the 11th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Lima, Peru in September 2025 were also important conferences during the period. Despite the many other priorities and challenges, climate change has remained a critical focus for the IPU

and BGIPU also supported UK representation at the COP30 meeting in Belem later this November.

We have also been very active in Westminster hosting events across a broad range of foreign policy issues. Our now long-standing engagement hosting in Parliament the Fellows of the John Smith Trust from the 12 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and our convening with the FCDO and Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Berlin Process for Western Balkans counterparts in mid-October are two notable accomplishments.

These efforts representing both Houses in the IPU internationally and facilitating a busy programme of events and activities in London have ensured that BGIPU continues to exemplify the UK Parliament's commitment to constructive international dialogue and democratic solidarity at a crucial time when such values are being challenged and diminished globally.

Acknowledgements

None of this would be possible without the commitment of Members of both Houses who devote their time and energy to BGIPU's work. I particularly want to thank our Officers, the Executive Committee and the many parliamentarians who represented the UK abroad or hosted visiting delegations.

Our gratitude also extends to the Speakers' Offices, the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Offices of both Houses, the FCDO and other parliamentary departments whose support underpins our success.

Above all, I wish to recognise the extraordinary dedication of the BGIPU Secretariat, a small team of just seven staff who deliver a global programme with professionalism, good humour and tireless efficiency under the greatly experienced leadership of Rick Nimmo,

Dominique Rees and Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison.

As we look ahead to 2026, BGIPU will continue to serve as the UK Parliament's most effective instrument of parliamentary diplomacy - building relationships, strengthening understanding and giving a human face to Britain's global engagement at a time when such engagement at a time has never been more needed.

Fabian Hamilton MP
Chair, British Group IPU
30 October 2025

Director's Report



Rick Nimmo
Director,
BGIPU

It is my privilege to present this Director's Report on the activities of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) during 2024–25. The year under review has been one of transition and consolidation, reflecting both the renewed vigour of the UK Parliament following the 2024 general election and the continuing pressures of a challenging global environment. Despite fiscal constraints and administrative restructuring, BGIPU has maintained, and in many respects enhanced, its reputation for delivering high-quality parliamentary diplomacy on behalf of the United Kingdom.

Governance and Strategic Direction

This reporting period marked the conclusion of BGIPU's 2022–25 Strategic Business Plan and the formulation of a new three-year plan for 2025–28, adopted by the Executive Committee in March 2025. The new plan reaffirms the Group's four central objectives:

- To maintain effective and accountable governance, human resource management, and financial control in full compliance with the Financial Memorandum agreed with both Houses of Parliament;
- To support the UK Parliament's engagement in the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other multilateral fora;
- To administer a balanced and diverse programme of bilateral inter-parliamentary exchanges; and
- To strengthen outreach, communications and public understanding of the role of parliamentary diplomacy.

The plan is founded on advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations. It reaffirms BGIPU's mission to strengthen the UK Parliament's global influence through inter-parliamentary

dialogue, active participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and engagement with partner parliaments worldwide. The strategy emphasises flexibility and innovation in responding to geopolitical uncertainty while upholding British values of democracy, rule of law, and human rights.

Its key priorities include expanding inward and outward delegations, deepening collaboration in multilateral forums, and promoting inclusive, rules-based global governance. The plan also sets out objectives for effective governance, prudent economic management, and staff development to ensure BGIPU continues to deliver value for money and high-impact parliamentary diplomacy in support of UK foreign policy goals.

The plan recognises the difficult fiscal environment across Parliament, requiring BGIPU to maintain output despite reduced staffing and zero-growth budget. In practice, efficiency has been enhanced through more integrated coordination, the skilled adoption of AI and digital tools to support workflow management, and clearer delegation of responsibilities across the team. Greater use of flexible working models, job-sharing, and cross-functional tasking has also improved responsiveness and reduced duplication, ensuring that the Secretariat continues to deliver a high standard of service despite tighter resource constraints.

Throughout the year, BGIPU's governance arrangements operated effectively. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee, Audit Committee and Selection Committee were convened, with full compliance with the BGIPU Rules. All major policy and budgetary decisions were taken collectively, and the Annual General Meeting in November 2024 marked a successful renewal of the Executive Committee under the leadership of the newly elected Chair.

Financial Management

Sound financial stewardship has continued to underpin all BGIPU activities. For the financial year ending 31 March 2025, total income was £1,585,447, principally derived from the Grant-in-Aid contributions of both Houses. Expenditure totalled £1,453,559, resulting in a reported surplus of £131,888, of which £55,452 represents a true year-on-year operating surplus after accounting for prepayments.

Reserves at year-end stood at £652,574, comfortably within the upper limit of 25% of annual expenditure prescribed by the Financial Memorandum. The external auditors, Kreston Reeves LLP, once again issued an unqualified audit opinion, identifying no control deficiencies and commending the clarity and timeliness of BGIPU's financial reporting.

The year's results also reflect careful management of external cost pressures. While the Inter-Parliamentary Union subscription increased marginally in Swiss Franc terms, the Secretariat achieved offsetting savings through competitive procurement of travel, accommodation, and translation services. A number of activities benefited from cost-sharing arrangements with host parliaments or partner institutions, reinforcing BGIPU's reputation for value-for-money delivery.

Programme Delivery

Despite a slower start following the induction of new and returning members and key roles of the House of Commons following the 2024 general election in the early part of the period, BGIPU delivered one of its most active annual programmes for a number of years showing it has fully recovered from the travel impacts of the global pandemic. In total, eight outward delegations (with Colombia also occurring shortly) and five inward visits were completed in the period of this report, alongside ten shorter "Days in Parliament" for visiting dignitaries and parliamentary colleagues from around the world.

Outward Delegations

The outward delegation programme covered a wide geographical and thematic spectrum. Delegations were mounted to Qatar, Hungary, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Mongolia, each providing opportunities to strengthen bilateral parliamentary relationships, discuss shared policy challenges, and exchange best practice on legislative scrutiny and representation.

Later in the year, BGIPU visited the Dominican Republic and Senegal which were both selected for their strategic relevance to UK foreign

policy objectives in regions where the UK needs to be more competitive to advance its core interests. In the Dominican Republic, members engaged with Caribbean counterparts on trade diversification, climate resilience, and democratic governance in small island states. The Senegal visit, meanwhile, explored the dynamics of West African security cooperation, the role of parliaments in counter-terrorism oversight, and opportunities for UK-African partnership on education and renewable energy.

Inward Delegations and Short Visits

Complementing these outward activities, BGIPU hosted inward visits from Ukraine, Moldova, Jordan, Albania and Spain, as well as shorter programmes involving representatives from Australia, Armenia, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina. Each inward visit is designed to provide practical exposure to the procedures, traditions and innovations of the UK Parliament, as well as to foster enduring professional and personal relationships between parliamentarians.

Feedback from visiting delegations was consistently positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the cross-party participation of UK Members, the quality of briefings, and the support received from the Secretariat.

UK Participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union

BGIPU's engagement in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) - the world's oldest and most inclusive parliamentary organisation - continues to be central to its mission. During 2024–25, UK delegations participated actively in two major IPU Assemblies and several thematic meetings.

The 150th Assembly in Tashkent, hosted by the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, adopted the Tashkent Declaration on Parliamentary Action for Social Development and Justice, emphasising the need for parliaments to combat inequality and promote inclusion. The Assembly also adopted two substantive resolutions: one reaffirming commitment

to a Two-State Solution in Palestine and another on Mitigating the Long-Lasting Impacts of Conflict on Sustainable Development.

The UK delegation, led by Fabian Hamilton MP, made major contributions to both debates, highlighting the importance of parliamentary oversight of humanitarian assistance, adherence to international law, and the role of gender-responsive policymaking in peacebuilding. Over fifteen bilateral meetings were held on the margins of the Assembly, including with colleagues from Canada, Israel, Jordan, Germany and Senegal, strengthening the UK's profile as a constructive and principled participant. The Assembly also celebrated 40 years of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, launching the "Achieving Gender Equality: Action by Action" initiative to accelerate progress toward parity in political representation - an initiative strongly supported by the UK.

The 151st Assembly, held in Geneva under the theme "Parliamentary Support for Humanitarian Action," reaffirmed the centrality of parliaments in protecting civilians in conflict and upholding the Geneva Conventions. The Assembly adopted the Geneva Declaration on Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action, a landmark text reinforcing parliamentary responsibility for compliance with international humanitarian law.

UK Members contributed substantively to debates on humanitarian access, international adoption and hybrid threats, resulting in comprehensive resolutions on illegal intercountry adoption and transnational crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats. Member delegations also adopted the Geneva Declaration on "Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis".

Beyond plenary sessions, UK delegates had bilateral engagement with a dozen counterpart delegations and met representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian bodies, advocating stronger parliamentary scrutiny of humanitarian assistance.

Together, these two Assemblies and various other IPU meetings provided invaluable opportunities to project the UK Parliament's values and to demonstrate the continuing relevance of parliamentary diplomacy in an increasingly polarised and complex world.

Human Resources and Secretariat

The professionalism and resilience of the Secretariat remain BGIPU's greatest asset. Following a reorganisation in mid-2025, the Secretariat now operates with seven posts - one fewer than in previous years - yet continues to deliver an expanding portfolio of work.

Staff costs totalled £537,211, reflecting the 2024 House of Commons pay settlement, together with performance-related bonuses. Additional investment was made in training and professional development, particularly in digital literacy, event management and foreign language capacity. The Secretariat also introduced new internal procedures to streamline travel coordination, improve delegation briefing quality, and enhance data protection compliance.

I record my particular thanks to Deputy Director Dominique Rees MBE, whose leadership and organisational skills continue to be invaluable; Finance and Administration Manager Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison, for her diligence and precision in financial control; and to all Secretariat colleagues for their exceptional commitment throughout what has been one of BGIPU's busiest years. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent contribution of former International Project Manager, Mathilde Ollivo, whose professionalism and dedication made a significant impact during her time with BGIPU prior to her departure in September 2025.

Outreach, Communications and Partnerships

With 335 new Members elected to Parliament in July 2024, outreach and induction has continued to be an organisational priority with a number of new members participating in Assembly delegations, outward delegations and hosting inward visitors. Thematic events, information stands in Portcullis House and a series of lunchtime

briefings ensured broad awareness of BGIPU's role and opportunities.

Throughout the year, the BGIPU website was regularly updated with activity reports and Assembly outcomes, while its X (formerly Twitter) account grew to 4,000 followers, confirming its position as one of the most followed inter-parliamentary accounts globally along with the IPU itself. This digital engagement not only enhances transparency but also strengthens the visibility of parliamentary diplomacy among the public and international partners. Nonetheless, the sustainability of this platform for promoting our work remains in the balance given misuse and misinformation undermining the credibility of social media sites like X.

BGIPU also continued to partner with the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG) to provide pre-delegation human rights briefings and thematic events on democracy, development and gender equality. This collaboration, alongside continuing engagement with the John Smith Trust and parliamentary networks on peace and security, artificial intelligence, climate change, development issues and global health, exemplifies BGIPU's ability to convene expertise and foster informed discussion within Parliament. A recent Berlin Process event on the Western Balkans also underscored the value of mutually beneficial partnership activities with the FCDO and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) which could be further developed.

Conclusion

Through disciplined management, strategic focus and a culture of teamwork, BGIPU has again proven that a small, efficient organisation can deliver substantial global impact. Despite tight budgets and complex logistics, the Group has maintained the full scope of its activities and ensured that the UK Parliament remains an active, respected and influential participant in the global parliamentary community.

I express my deep gratitude to our Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP, our other Officers, particularly Alex Sobel MP who has reached the end of

his term as Vice-Chair, members of the Executive Committee, and all Members of both Houses who have supported and participated in our work during the year. I also thank the Speakers of both Houses, Elizabeth Hunt, Sarah Hartwell-Naguib and Susie Latta in the IPROs, Rory Dickson at the FCDO and the many other parliamentary officials who assist us daily. Above all, I pay tribute to my colleagues in the BGIPU Secretariat, whose professionalism, commitment and resilience continue to reflect the best traditions of responsive and effective parliamentary service.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
30 October 2025

Minutes of the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 13 November 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union was held on Wednesday 13 November 2024. Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, was in the chair.

Item 1: Opening remarks by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Honorary President of the BGIPU

MR SPEAKER:

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, I now call the first bout of this boxing match—*[Laughter.]* No, no: I call the Annual General Meeting to order by ringing the bell.

I extend a warm welcome to everybody. I hope you have had time to read the 2024 Annual Report from page to page—Rick will test you on it. It was published on the BGIPU website on 22 October 2024; hard copies are available here for those who want to take one away. Please note that there are elections today for the Conservative positions on the Committee and Vice-Chair.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any apologies?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

There are 16 apologies.

Item 3: Adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2023

MR SPEAKER:

We are required to adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2023, which are printed on pages 17 to 31 of the 2024 Annual Report. May I have a proposer and seconder that the minutes be adopted as a true record?

(Proposed by Baroness D’Souza and seconded by Lord Dholakia.)

My word, the Lords are involved. Thank goodness you have come.

Are we all in favour? That is good—we like democracy. The minutes are adopted.

Item 4: Matters arising from the minutes

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any matters arising?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

None has been advised.

Item 5: Adoption of the Annual Report for 2024

MR SPEAKER:

I invite the Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories—at the moment—to propose the adoption of the report.

STEPHEN DOUGHTY MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I can confirm my resolute support for our Overseas Territories, having visited three of them last week. Thank you to Rick and the whole IPU team.

I am very happy to propose the formal adoption of the Annual Report. I am glad to have the opportunity to celebrate the British Group's work strengthening our parliamentary relationships around the world. It was a pleasure to speak at your reception the other day, Mr Speaker, encouraging all parliamentarians to get involved with this work. I see many friends in the audience with whom I have been on delegations and have hosted incoming delegations. I particularly welcome Fabian to his new role; he and I have been on various trips.

I began the year as shadow Minister for Europe, welcoming the Greek delegation hosted by this Group to discuss all sorts of matters, from Cyprus to Ukraine. I am now delighted to be in the role of Minister. The Government are very keen to continue the tradition of working closely with IPU delegations: that is crucial to our reconnecting agenda across the globe. I have made it clear to our overseas missions around the world that they should be as helpful and welcoming as possible to our delegations when they are out on visits. We have already had a number of useful reports back from different locations. We are all representing this country, representing our

interests and trying to build democratic and parliamentary links. I want the Government, and certainly the FCDO, to be as supportive of those endeavours as possible.

This Government are putting internationalism and multilateralism at the very centre of our work, resetting and deepening relationships with friends around the world to better face global challenges and further our shared goals of security, peace, prosperity, democracy and the rule of law. We know that the UK is stronger when we work with our international partners. Quite frankly, the challenges that we face today in this divided and conflicted world make engagement with fellow parliamentarians more important than ever. It is a delight that we have colleagues here today from the Rada in Ukraine.

It has certainly been a busy year for the Group, despite our activities having been disrupted by the Dissolution of Parliament. We have welcomed numerous delegations here and have undertaken some valuable visits, from Colombia to Finland to Oman, and of course at the ongoing COP29 conference in Baku. The BGIPU and the IPU more broadly have promoted co-operation on some of the biggest issues of the day. In particular, at the annual Assembly in Geneva, the UK, France and other friends unified the IPU membership in support of the United Nations and the principles of multilateralism. That sends a strong signal that co-operation, dialogue and understanding must always triumph over attempts to divide us.

It is a particular delight to have a group here from Ukraine today. In such challenging times for that country, the unity that has been shown across the House in our work and our Parliament-to-Parliament co-operation has been at the heart of our response in solidarity with Ukraine. I can certainly say that I have some very strong friendships with friends from the Rada. They have brought me great insight and, frankly, inspiration. Many of you will remember the early dark days of the war, when we saw parliamentarians in the Rada taking up arms to defend their Parliament and their democracy. I do not know what stronger signal there could be of our need to be completely resolute in support of them.

I cannot end without thanking the outgoing Chair, Karen Bradley. Karen, it is always a pleasure to work with you on a range of bodies, not just the IPU. Thank you for your leadership and for the wealth of

experience and enthusiasm that you have brought to the role. I wish the incoming Chair, Fabian, and the Executive Committee all the very best. My FCDO colleagues and I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come. *[Applause.]*

MR SPEAKER:

I invite the shadow Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office—welcome, Wendy—to second the 2024 Annual Report.

RT HON. WENDY MORTON MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Chair and members. Let me start by paying tribute to the outgoing Chair, Dame Karen Bradley, whose term in office was brought to a premature end as a result of the general election in July—we won't dwell on that. As those who have diligently read her report will have seen, she achieved so much in her two years as Chair, from hosting the UK delegation at the 149th assembly in Geneva to welcoming numerous delegations here in the UK. Karen, I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I say that we truly appreciate your work. We truly appreciate the opportunities the IPU provides us all as parliamentarians to extend our knowledge, develop valuable contacts and participate in bilateral visits and multilateral work.

In the past year, the country has continued to face unprecedented global challenges. The war in Ukraine and the appalling situation in the middle east both highlight the importance of the work of the BGIPU and the ever-increasing need for us to forge and strengthen links between Parliaments, parliamentarians, people and communities based on our shared knowledge, understanding and co-operation.

Although I have only been shadow Foreign Minister for a week or so, I have had the honour of serving as a Minister in the FCDO. During that time and as a Back Bencher I experienced at first hand, like many people here, the incredible work of the IPU, from hosting roundtables and meeting inbound delegations this year, including from Ukraine—they are here this week—and from Moldova, Colombia, Asia, Africa and all corners of the world, to organising and participating in outbound visits and attending multilateral conferences such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. That clearly demonstrates the reach of the

BGIPU and just how extensive and diverse it is. It is good to see that it is supported so well by colleagues across the parties and in both Houses.

It is fair to say that 2024 has shaped up to be quite the year for global democracy. More voters than ever in history will have headed to the polls this year, in at least 64 countries, plus the European Union. That represents a combined population of 49% of the world. Regrettably, however, we have seen some democratic backsliding, which makes the work of the BGIPU and the need to defend democracy, the rule of law and human rights ever more important.

I thank Rick, Director of the BGIPU, and his team for all the tremendous work they do to support us in our endeavours to make this world a better place, to make a difference and to have a vital voice on international platforms. I do not believe that parliamentarians are always an easy group to manage, but you do it superbly and always with a smile. Thank you all.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I second the BGIPU Annual Report for 2024. [Applause.]

MR SPEAKER:

The 2024 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. Is it agreed that we adopt the report? All those in favour please raise your hand. Anybody against? We will adopt the report.

Item 6: Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 by the BGIPU Treasurer, Dan Carden MP

MR SPEAKER:

The BGIPU's financial accounts were signed off this year during the parliamentary Dissolution period by Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, who deserves our thanks for standing in as interim Chair, Treasurer, Vice-Chair—you name it—over the election period. He was assisted in that task by two of our most loyal and outstanding Members, whom we must acknowledge: the Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza and Baroness Hooper. That was important so that today Mr Dan Carden MP, as honorary Treasurer of the BGIPU, can present the financial statements of the group, as outlined in the Annual Report. Over to you, Dan.

DAN CARDEN MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. May I start by thanking Karen Bradley as well? It has been a pleasure to work with her. I congratulate Fabian

Hamilton MP on his new role. I also thank Rick Nimmo, the Director, and Gabriella, who is at the back, for all her support with this work. This is the bit that involves a lot of numbers, so please bear with me—apologies for the length of it.

I present the financial statements and annual governance statement for the year ended 31 March 2024, shown at pages 38 to 65 of our 2024 Annual Report, which covers the 2023-24 financial year. Kreston Reeves LLP conducted the audit again this year. I welcome Emily Elphick, audit assistant manager, who is representing Kreston Reeves here today.

On page 49 of the 2024 Annual Report, our auditors present their unqualified opinion of the financial statements. An ad hoc audit committee met on 1 July 2024, as both Houses were dissolved in advance of the general election, and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the financial statements, which the then interim Chair Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate and the past Vice-Chairs Baroness Hooper and Baroness D’Souza signed off on behalf of the Executive Committee on 1 and 10 July 2024.

The income and expenditure account appears on page 56. Income increased from £1,410,417 to £1,441,053, with the Group receiving £1,435,512 of grant-in-aid from both Houses, which was 100% of the available funding amount. Bank interest increased from £2,472 to £5,510, due to an increase in interest rates in the period. Overall expenditure decreased by £34,410 from £1,578,836 to £1,544,426.

BGIPU’s annual subscription to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, charged in Swiss francs, was 563,500 CHF, an increase of 15,700 CHF on the previous year. The total pound sterling amount for IPU subscription, which appears in the income and expenditure account for 2023-24, was £498,048.

The Twelve Plus group subscription, charged in euros, remained the same in 2024. The sterling amount decreased from £1,394 to £1,387 due to exchange rate variations.

In terms of programme expenditure, two IPU Assemblies fell within the 2023-24 financial year. The 147th IPU Assembly took place in Angola in October 2023, and the 148th IPU Assembly was in Geneva in March 2024. A few expenses and repayments related to the 146th IPU Assembly in Manama took place in April, May and June

2023. The total cost of these Assemblies was £73,182.

A total of 10 IPU conferences took place during the 2023-24 financial year, including my attendance as Chair of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians at various meetings, an IPU conference on young parliamentarians, an interfaith conference, the IPU Committee of the Future, the COP28 parliamentary meeting, the annual UN parliamentary hearing, the Twelve Plus regional SDG meeting, parliamentary events at the Commission on the Status of Women, and two Twelve Plus steering committee meetings. The total cost for these events was £108,555.

A busy bilateral programme took place in the 2023-24 financial year, with visits to the UK by 10 delegations from the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Korea, Belgium, Ukraine, Uruguay, the Philippines, Finland, Greece, Morocco and Kosovo. There were also a number of days in Parliament, which incurred lesser costs, hosting counterparts from Moldova, Armenia, Portugal, France, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and South Korea, and visits from the former IPU President, Mr Pacheco, and from the John Smith Trust fellows. The total spend on inward delegations and days in Parliament was £126,593.

Seven outward delegations were undertaken in Serbia, Saudia Arabia, Uzbekistan, Costa Rica and Panama, Armenia, Oman and Albania, at a total cost of £167,719. That figure also includes residual costs from one in Brazil, from the previous year, and a minor spend on one to Turkey that was cancelled.

In the 2023-24 financial year, successful bids to BGIPU for funding were made by six APPGs, with a total cost of £1,776. The supported activities were hosted by the APPGs for Greece, Austria, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands and Kosovo. The cost of staff salaries and related expenses increased from £500,874 to £521,715, reflecting a pay increase of 5% in September 2023, backdated to 1 April 2023, and a one-off cost of living payment paid to eligible BGIPU staff in September 2023, as required by the House of Commons pay award.

As part of its member services and outreach, BGIPU organised a number of events in the year. Some themed lectures and events were hosted in the IPU Room, on international relations issues or inter-

-parliamentary priorities to promote the work of BGIPU in Parliament and raise awareness of key issues on the IPU agenda. In 2023-24 this cost £12,947 in total, a decrease in expenditure of £1,732 for the year, which includes the costs of BGIPU's website hosting of £660 and multi-year domain name subscription renewal at a cost of £183, totalling £843.

Funding support of £7,000 to the Parliamentary Human Rights Group is also included under the member services item. It provides extensive and highly valued briefings for members, as part of a long-standing mutual co-operation agreement. General hospitality costs have decreased by £1,709.

Audit fees increased this year by £1,716 and external insurance costs also increased slightly by £458. Insurance costs of £6,467 include travel insurance, group personal accident insurance and general office insurance, as well as director and officers' liability insurance.

The balance sheet on page 57 shows that net assets have decreased from £624,059 to £520,686. Fixed assets have increased slightly from £6,015 to £6,531. Prepayments have increased by £20,121, mainly due to the increased annual IPU subscription fee.

The cash flow statement on page 58 shows the overall deficit for the year was £103,373. When adjustments and investments are factored in, there was a net increase in cash reserves from £275,669 to £449,127, an addition of £173,458, due to early payment of funds.

The financial memorandum signed in late 2020 was in effect throughout the 2023-24 financial year, but a new memorandum is being finalised soon, after initially clearing BGIPU Executive Committee in May 2024.

The Annual Report containing these financial statements was published on the BGIPU website on 23 October 2024, prior to the AGM, and is available in the room today. [Applause.]

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any questions?

BARONESS D'SOUZA:

I wonder whether there are any additional risks that you feel might be identified in view of the increasing geopolitical tensions.

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

Yes. The world is extremely uncertain. That makes it harder to programme activities.

We are required to put in our budget request to funding bodies 18 months in advance of some of the activities that we eventually do. We are also required to give an indicative programme for the year. Things change within weeks nowadays, let alone months. That adds to the difficulty of planning a programme, but we basically prioritise delivery.

If we are working on a central programme of objectives and some of them fail because of the uncertainties, we will have options to sub in behind that to ensure that members' activities continue. That requires us to be relatively flexible. All our planning—our three-year strategic planning and our annual planning—builds in that flexibility. We have to express gratitude for the flexibility of members when travel arrangements change or particular visits fall through.

If we add to that the complexity of different parliamentary agendas, programmes, different dates in different countries, and elections, which have been very prominent this year, that does lead to the sort of situation where you cannot plan down to the final letter. But that has always been the case, and we depend heavily on members understanding that. Raising these questions helps us to say that it is something we are very conscious of. It is why we do a lot of planning, but that planning sometimes needs to change.

Item 7: Re-appointment of Auditors

MR SPEAKER:

We are required to appoint the auditors for the current year. Based on long-standing and satisfactory past performance, it is proposed that BGIPU's current auditors, Reeves & Co, be reappointed.

(Proposed by Karen Bradley and seconded by Fabian Hamilton.)

Reeves & Co are duly appointed.

Item 8: Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2024-25

MR SPEAKER:

I take it that the AGM is willing to confirm the election of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Group, as published on the website and notified to all members by the Secretariat in an all-member

member email sent on 7 November. As there are no objections, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are duly confirmed in accordance with the usual arrangements.

Regarding the composition of BGIPU's Executive Committee, elections are being held for positions as Conservative party members and peers and for the officer position of Opposition Vice-Chair. All other members are standing unopposed, including four officer posts, as already advised to members.

I am therefore pleased to confirm that the following officers and the Executive Committee members are elected unopposed: as Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP; as Vice-Chair, Alex Sobel MP—it must be all Leeds, this; as Vice-Chair for the House of Lords, the Rt Hon Baroness Northover; and as Treasurer, the Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP. Standing unopposed as Committee members are Lord Dubs, Lord Cromwell, the Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza CMG PC and the Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE PC JP DL.

Standing unopposed as Government party Committee members are Paula Barker MP, Phil Brickell MP, Kevin Bonavia MP, Dawn Butler MP, Dan Carden MP, Pam Cox MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, John Slinger MP, Blair McDougall MP, Jessica Morden MP and Kate Osamor MP. Standing unopposed as another Opposition party Committee member is Chris Law MP of the Scottish National party. The election result will be confirmed following this AGM and will be posted on the BGIPU website and on the IPU Room door.

Item 9: Speech by the incoming BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP

MR SPEAKER:

Colleagues, before I invite the newly elected incoming Chair of BGIPU, Fabian Hamilton MP, to speak, let me say thank you to the team for what you have done. It has not been easy, what with having an election in the middle. I thank the people who have helped to get this through. I also say thank you to Karen for what you did, and to the rest of the people who were there and are not re-standing; it really is appreciated. I have to say that we are definitely one of the best IPU groups. Thank you, everyone.

RT HON. DAME KAREN BRADLEY MP:

I am not going to speak for long, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

It will be two hours.

RT HON. DAME KAREN BRADLEY MP:

Just two? This is not on the agenda, but I want to say thank you to you all for what you have brought to the team and for everything you do. It was a curtailed chairship and I did not get to complete my term, but thank you, Timothy, for all you did standing in during the election period. Thank you to all the officers and every member of staff, who have made it a real honour and pleasure to be the Chair of BGIPU, albeit that it was curtailed in a way that I would not have wished. I wish Fabian the very best of luck. *[Applause.]*

MR SPEAKER:

As I welcome Fabian as the new Chair, I can see that the person who will always continue here is Nigel Evans. Hopefully, he will be an even more experienced representative.

FABIAN HAMILTON MP:

My speech will be slightly longer than Karen's. I want to start by saying what a privilege it is to be elected as new Chair of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union. I want to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for supporting me in taking up this important role. Special thanks go to Karen Bradley, the outgoing Chair; to the Vice-Chair, Alex Sobel; to Dan Carden MP; to Chris Law MP, who has been so supportive; and, of course, to our staff, Rick, Dominique and all the wonderful team, because they have been absolutely brilliant. Finally, I thank my predecessor as MP for Leeds North East, Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate: thank you for standing as interim Chair and for keeping the organisation going in the way that you do.

Friends, the BGIPU's 130-year history is very rich. Parliamentarians across the political spectrum have played vital roles in connecting the UK Parliament to meaningful and deeper engagement with counterparts abroad. Protecting and promoting our values of democracy transcends party politics. I am committed to listening closely to how we can improve our efforts and further our work.

As we move forward into a new year of activity in 2025-26, I believe the BGIPU must remain a values-based organisation, as it always has been, guided by the principles that uphold democracy, human rights and sustainable development, alongside supporting multilateralism, peace building and international law. There is no substitute for meeting our counterparts from democracies around the world to forge meaningful connections with all those who share our commitment to those ideals, and for reaching out to others to demonstrate the importance of our values.

There is no doubt that, as we have already heard today, the world faces profound challenges and that we must play our part in tackling them—and play our part we will. Growing geopolitical instability, division and disinformation put the stability of our democratic institutions at grave risk. Those challenges can feel overwhelming, but they also present an opportunity for us to lead by example, standing firm in our values and advocating for the common good. We must stand proudly in defence of our values, never shying away from the difficult conversations we will have.

As Chair, I want to see a British Group that works effectively, not only to strengthen its partnerships with international colleagues and not just within the corridors of power, but within the communities that our policies and decisions impact. We must ensure that our engagement is not only diplomatic but humanitarian, grounded in the realities of the challenges facing people across the world every single day, from the threats of economic insecurity and poverty to the those of violence and human rights abuses, while advancing an urgent need for climate action immediately.

Parliaments and elected Houses across the world are diverse, and it is that diversity that makes the IPU thrive. Whether it is at assemblies and conferences or bilateral visits and exchanges, we must focus our efforts on consensus building and the exchange of ideas.

As Chair, I will always work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. I am so pleased to see my good friend Stephen Doughty here today; we worked together on the Front Bench and he is a superb Minister. We need to promote and develop the values of peace, human rights and tolerance.

Finally, friends, I would like to welcome you all to the BGIPU, an institution with which I am proud to have been involved for over a decade. In particular, I would like to welcome the new 2024 intake of Members of both Houses. Your participation and engagement will bring a fresh perspective on our work. I am looking forward to working closely with you. Positive change does not happen by itself; it takes political will from all sides of our respective Parliaments. We must be guided by the words of my late friend and colleague Jo Cox: we are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us. Thank you. *[Applause.]*

Item 10: Any other business

MR SPEAKER:

May I confirm with the Secretariat that there has been no written notification, in accordance with the BGIPU rules, of any other matters of business to be raised? Rick, will you confirm that?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

There are no other points of business. However, I note that we have two tellers for the election currently under way—Alex Sobel MP and Lord Rennard—who will count the votes at the conclusion of this meeting.

Item 11: Closure of meeting

MR SPEAKER:

I now close the meeting. Thank you very much.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2024, the under-mentioned were elected as Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

BGIPU Honorary Presidents

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP (The Commons Speaker)

Rt Hon The Lord McFall of Alcluith (The Lord Speaker)

BGIPU President

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP (Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Douglas Alexander MP

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Dan Carden MP

Mary Creagh CBE FCIL MP

Preet Gill MP

Rt Hon David Lammy MP

Kate Osamor MP

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Rt Hon the Lord Hammond of Runnymede

Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidstone

Rt Hon the Lord Sharma KCMG

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Fowler

Rt Hon the Baroness Hayman GBE

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2024 there have been five Executive Committee meetings in 2025: Tuesday 28 January, Tuesday 25 March, Tuesday 10 June, Wednesday 16 July and Tuesday 28 October.

Meetings of the Audit Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2024 there have been two Audit Committee deliberations in 2025: Tuesday 4 March and Thursday 3 July.

Officers & Executive Committee (As elected 13 November 2024)

Chair:

Fabian Hamilton MP

Vice-Chairs:

Alex Sobel MP

Alicia Kearns MP

The Rt Hon Baroness Northover

Treasurer:

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP

Executive Committee:

Labour Party

Paula Barker MP

Kevin Bonavia MP

Phil Brickell MP

Dawn Butler MP

Dan Carden MP

Pam Cox MP

Sharon Hodgson MP

Blair McDougall MP

Jessica Morden MP

Kate Osamor MP

John Slinger MP

The Lord Dubs

Conservative Party

Dame Harriett Baldwin DBE MP

Gagan Mohindra MP

Martin Vickers MP

The Baroness Hooper CMG

The Lord Kempson

Scottish National Party

Chris Law MP

Cross Bench

The Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza CMG
PC

The Lord Cromwell

Other Party Peer

The Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE
PC JP DL

Membership of the British Group

As a result of rule changes adopted at the AGM on December 3 2014, all members of both Houses of Parliament are deemed to be full members of the BGIPU. As at October 30 2025, total membership of the group was 1,476.



UK Delegation to the 2025 IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, New York, USA in February 2025 on the theme “Scaling up action for Sustainable Development Goals”.

BGIPU and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute event on the Yazidi Genocide hosted by Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws in the IPU Room.



Session on the Parliamentary Dimension of the Berlin Process 2025 chaired by BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP and attended by Stephen Doughty MP, Minister for Europe in the Moses Room, House of Lords.

Chair and other members of the BGIPU Executive Committee on the House of Commons Terrace with a delegation from Albania in February 2025.





UK Delegation to the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Rome, Italy in June 2025 when Lord Lemos presented a copy of his book *Childhood and Contemporary Catholicism* to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

UK Delegation to Mongolia, led by BGIPU Chair Fabian Hamilton MP, visiting a sustainable development project in the Ger district in June 2025.



UK Delegation to Indonesia, led by Kim Johnson MP, meeting with the Minister for Tourism in February 2025.



UK Delegation, Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP and Rt Hon Anneliese Dodds MP, meeting with the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Mr Igor Grosu in May 2025.



**REPORT OF THE
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS,
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement
Year ended 31 March 2025**

**Kreston Reeves LLP
Statutory Auditor & Chartered Accountants
Second Floor
168 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6RA**

Annual Governance Statement

Governance framework

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) is an unincorporated association comprising members of both Houses of the UK Parliament united in their support for the aims of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. Following an amendment to the BGIPU Rules in December 2014, all members of both Houses were deemed to be full members of BGIPU with a right to participate in the Group's activities.

Governance of the BGIPU is exercised through a 30-member Executive Committee, appointed annually by its entire membership (26 elected and up to four additional members under co-option provisions). The Executive Committee approves and oversees engagement with the principal organs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the implementation of a Forward Programme of bilateral activities with counterpart parliaments and interaction with other bodies as appropriate to advance the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations in pursuing the interests of its membership and the UK Parliament.

Aside from Honorary Presidential posts, the Officers of the BGIPU comprise the Chair, three Vice-Chairs, Honorary Treasurer and the Director. The Officers exercise financial authority on behalf of the Executive Committee and meet as required, usually in advance of any Executive Committee meeting. All decisions taken by the Officers are duly reported to the full Executive Committee at its next meeting. In this work, they are supported by a Secretariat, led by the Director and senior staff comprising a Deputy Director, Finance and Administration Manager and highly qualified and experienced international policy and project management staff.

The Honorary Treasurer as Accounting Officer is responsible for ensuring a sound system of internal controls is maintained, supporting

BGIPU's key objectives while also safeguarding its public funds and assets consistent with the Financial Memorandum (FM) agreed with funding bodies in both Houses of Parliament. The Honorary Treasurer is also responsible for ensuring internal control measures are fully implemented in compliance with relevant Treasury and other applicable guidelines. This ensures all financial and human resources are used economically, efficiently and cost-effectively, including that the Executive Committee take financial considerations into account in making any operational or policy decisions.

The Director is responsible to the Officers and the Executive Committee for the implementation of their decisions and effective day to day administration of the organisation and its Secretariat, observing appropriate personnel management and administration policies. The position is also responsible to the Honorary Treasurer to ensure that effective procedures are in place to control the expenditure of the organisation, to maintain financial records and calculate the budget required to conduct the organisation's authorised activities in support of submitting BGIPU's annual request for grant in aid funding to both Houses.

The full Executive Committee approves BGIPU's forward programme of activities and through Selection Committees, identifies delegates for IPU Assemblies, bilateral visits and other inter-parliamentary activities. It also decides what action is to be taken on recommendations and resolutions of IPU Assemblies and the Governing Council of the IPU, promotes membership of BGIPU and has overall control of the Group's funds. The Executive Committee through the Chair is the official conduit for correspondence with the Secretariat of the IPU, consideration and adoption of the BGIPU Strategic Business Plan and the appointment of the Director.

Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee gives advice to the Honorary Treasurer on the adequacy of audit arrangements and the implications of assurances regarding risk and control in the organisation. The Audit Committee annually reviews the organisation's Risk Register and, when necessary, draws to the attention

of the Honorary Treasurer and the Executive Committee any additional measures needed to control risk and advise if the scope of the external audit needs any adjustment.

Arrangements for funding inter-parliamentary groups in the UK Parliament have evolved over many years. While BGIPU funding originally came from member contributions and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this was subsequently delivered through direct grant in aid from HM Treasury. This changed in 2007/8 when ongoing funding responsibility was transferred to both Houses of Parliament with 70 percent of the annually agreed total allocated from the House of Commons and 30 percent from the House of Lords.

An updated FM was negotiated in late 2023/early 2024 and considered by the BGIPU Executive Committee on 5 March 2024. Following final review by the BGIPU Chair and Treasurer and senior clerks of both Houses in May 2024, it was signed off in June 2024 just prior to the general election. The FM provides the basis for the continued financial support by the UK Parliament of BGIPU. This latest iteration followed directions set in past memoranda agreed in 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2020 respectively outlining the arrangements governing the funding and institutional relationship. The current FM requires the preparation of a detailed annual business plan review, including estimated costs of programme and non-programme expenditure, regular quarterly reports of outturn figures and an overall commitment to follow recommended limits on reserves. BGIPU is also required to follow broadly a range of administrative, financial and human resources policies, analogous to those in the House of Commons, albeit proportionate to BGIPU's unique character and circumstances.

As noted above, internal risk and audit oversight is exercised by the Audit Committee selected from members of the Executive Committee. The BGIPU also has an annual external audit, with authorised financial statements, an explanatory commentary, and a key issues memorandum presented to the Audit Committee in mid-year for consideration and referral to the Executive Committee. In accordance with the Rules of the Group (last amended in December 2014), the BGIPU produces an Annual Report in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

Funding bodies also audit BGIPU through audit bodies in either House every five or so years with the last occurring in 2023. Since 2017, addressing increased reputational and operational risk matters evident on the parliamentary estate, BGIPU has provided more extensive guidance for members travel, outlining overall conditions and setting standards for official delegation travel and adopted a zero-tolerance policy on workplace bullying and sexual harassment.

Work of the Executive Committee

Due to the general election on 4 July 2024, the BGIPU Executive Committee met on just three occasions during the 2024-25 Financial Year, convening on 21 May 2024, 28 January 2025 and 25 March 2025, two fewer times than usual. An interim Audit Committee comprised of Peers only convened on 1 July 2024 to approve the final accounts and a full Audit Committee appointed by the incoming Executive Committee met on 4 March 2025 to review the auditors' Letter of Engagement and supporting documents. It also considered the 2025 Risk Management Strategy and updated Risk Register. The Annual General Meeting had taken place after the general election on Wednesday 13 November 2024 to elect a new Executive Committee for 2024/25.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Director maintained efforts to improve the organisation's effectiveness through close attention to BGIPU's strategic priorities. In accordance with the requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to the funding bodies in September 2024, the annual review based on the Strategic Business Plan adopted 7 June 2022. BGIPU also submitted detailed forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2025/26 Request for Funding and a new three-year Strategic Business Plan was adopted by the Executive Committee on 25 March 2025 for the period 2025/26-2027/28.

In addition, the Executive Committee approved a detailed Forward Programme for 2024/25 consistent with these plans recognising increased geopolitical uncertainty with the threats created by Russia's ongoing illegal war in Ukraine, continuing violence in the Middle East

and unprecedented economic, security and multilateral policy challenges resulting from the change of government in the United States.

Under the overall management of the Director, supported by the specialised human resource advisory role of the Finance and Administration Manager, the Executive Committee has taken all appropriate steps to ensure staff members are employed on terms broadly in line with those of the House of Commons as required in the FM, including following the appropriate pay-bands and salary levels applying to House of Commons staff in recent pay agreements. In October 2019, recognising unique constraints on staff recruitment and retention, the Executive Committee enhanced Secretariat employment conditions through a performance appraisal-based bonus scheme to improve conditions of service which continues to apply.

BGIPU's Secretariat also maintains a comprehensive Staff Handbook, updated regularly in line with changes to House of Commons policies and practices. BGIPU continued to provide timely activity reporting through its website, in addition to using social media and other forms of outreach to make the Group's work more accessible to members with a specific focus on informing new members of our work and activities. In terms of professional and personal development, staff training focused on language training, information technology and policy skills, in addition to team-building activities and tailored-made financial procedures training.

Risks

BGIPU's mechanisms and procedures are designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk to achieve the policies, aims and objectives of the organisation. In doing this, it can provide only reasonable, not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

Capacity to Handle Risk

BGIPU's overall approach to risk management is based on the judgement and authority of the Executive Committee, including drawing on the experience and advice of the Director and other Secretariat staff. As far as possible, BGIPU employees are encouraged to take full ownership of their work and be responsible for managing their own part of the risk control process and are appropriately informed, guided and trained to manage aspects of risk relevant to their responsibilities. This includes close attention to ensuring probity and due diligence in the careful and cost-effective expenditure of public monies.

In managing its staff to manage and mitigate risk, BGIPU encourages teamwork and dialogue, convening weekly staff meetings and encouraging a consultative and cooperative work environment. The Secretariat also ensures effective processes for the identification and dissemination of best practice and lessons learned. Feedback to the Secretariat on its overall performance is provided by the Officers and Executive Committee and by mandatory reporting on activities by the MPs and Peers who have participated in them, also allowing other interested stakeholders, including HMG officials, to hear key findings and observations.

Risk Control Framework

A Risk Register has been compiled and approved by the Executive Committee and forms the focus of the organisation's risk management strategy (last reviewed in March 2025). The Director has also undertaken specialist Risk Management training previously on House of Commons procedures. The Executive Committee has delegated authority to the Audit Committee to regularly monitor and scrutinise the Risk Register and to take appropriate action where necessary. The Audit Committee reports back to the Executive Committee as required to ensure any issues are fully considered and addressed, as it did in March 2025.

Risk management is embedded in the organisation through Executive Committee oversight, regular staff reporting and commitment to best

practice, close review of expenditure and regular scrutiny of the Risk Register by the Audit Committee. Most residual risks are low. The main risk priorities for the organisation are in the areas of effective project management, which in turn depends upon the professionalism and motivation of staff and the promotion of best practice. While the Finance and Administration Manager carries the key responsibility for financial accounts management, the decision was taken in April 2019 to employ the services of a trained accountant to provide professional accountancy advice and support. This was deemed a more effective use of resources and replaced the previous post of Finance and Administrative Assistant at a significantly lower cost to the organisation and has been judged a successful strategy. Close attention to compliance risks in recent years has successfully addressed most areas of key concern although known vulnerabilities around online transactions and credit cards requires close attention and diligence.

Review of Effectiveness

While notionally independent of the management arrangements of both Houses of Parliament, the fact that the BGIPU is entirely dependent on external funding from Parliament requires it to maintain the full confidence and support of its funding partners. This requires close attention to the provisions of the FM and appropriate transparency and probity to ensure that funding levels are sufficient for implementation of the programme activities being planned. A mutually supportive and consultative relationship with the funding bodies in both Houses through the Interparliamentary Relations Offices (IPROs) has been essential and was key to addressing funding concerns which arose but were resolved successfully in late 2024/early 2025 which was very much appreciated by the Executive Committee.

Notwithstanding rising geopolitical challenges and violent conflicts and threats, including in Europe, BGIPU has made a strong contribution to the cause of interparliamentary dialogue and diplomacy in the last year. Based on the feedback of members through formal meetings and informal channels, the support and regular exchanges with the Group's key funding partners, and other key stakeholders, like the IPU Secretariat in Geneva and the FCDO, I assess that the BGIPU Executive Committee and Secretariat are undertaking their roles and

responsibilities to an appropriate level of effectiveness. This includes regarding the cost-effective use of public monies, its responsibilities to staff as a good employer and its overall management of operational risk and policy objectives against a backdrop of increasing competition and worsening threats and challenges.

Mindful of the monitoring role played by BGIPU's funding bodies in both Houses, I assess BGIPU's governance mechanisms to be robust, allowing for appropriate management oversight by the Executive Committee, including through combined audit scrutiny and risk management roles of the Audit Committee. Reflecting upon a long and continuing history of positive external audit outcomes, I am confident that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the Group's programme of work is well-targeted and represents an effective use of the public monies provided for these specific purposes. As Honorary Treasurer, I am assured by my own close experience (including as past BGIPU Chair) of the quality and depth of the deliberations of Officers and the Executive Committee that the current BGIPU governance structure is sustainable and sufficiently robust in all required aspects.

With the interruption of the 2024 election, BGIPU could not meet all its programme targets in 2024/25 (only three inward delegations were possible) but it delivered a small funding surplus in return. Nonetheless, all grant in aid was expended cost-effectively, all audit requirements were met, and it fulfilled all administrative and procedural obligations in accordance with BGIPU Rules, including governance changes resulting from the general election outcome. Given this success, I have every confidence in concluding that the governance of BGIPU adequately addresses the expectations of its membership, that BGIPU is responsive to changes in its operating environment and that it fully meets the expectations of its funding bodies. Most importantly, I am also confident that BGIPU meets all its financial, administrative and policy programme requirements in a fully satisfactory manner.

(Signed)

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP

Honorary Treasurer

16 July 2025

Statement of the Executive Committee's responsibilities

Under the BGIPU's rules, the duties of the Executive Committee of the BGIPU include the control of the organisation's funds. It is also required to ensure that financial statements (duly audited) are prepared. The Executive Committee of the BGIPU has accepted responsibility for the preparation of these financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are intended by it to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the deficit/surplus for that period. The Executive Committee has accepted that the financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing these financial statements, the Executive Committee has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as it believes that the organisation will continue to function for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the balance sheet.

The Executive Committee has general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the assets of the BGIPU and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The Executive Committee confirms that, so far as it is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the organisation's auditors are unaware; and that it has taken all the steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the organisation's auditors are aware of that information.

Report of the independent auditor to the members of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (the 'organisation') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the organisation'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.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Executive Committee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Executive Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the organisation and its environment obtained during the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, where we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of the Executive Committee's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

As explained more fully in the Executive Committee's responsibilities statement set out on page 49, the Executive Committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Committee are responsible for assessing the organisation'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 Executive Committee either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our 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 an auditor's report that includes our 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.

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

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the organisation, and through discussion with the Executive Committee and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements. We communicated identified

laws and regulations through out our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journals, management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the organisations engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Checking and reperforming the reconciliation of key control accounts; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Identifying, using automated data analytics, and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitation of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of

instances of non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.
- Include on the appropriateness of the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We 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 that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the organisation's members, as a body, determined by the rules of the organisation. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the organisation's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the organisation and the organisation's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

(Signed)

Anne Dwyer BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Kreston Reeves LLP

Statutory Auditor & Chartered Accountants

Date: 21 July 2025

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024 £
Income			
Grant in aid		1,579,062	1,435,512
Donations / Subscriptions received from members		31	31
Interest receivable		6,354	5,510
		<u>1,585,447</u>	<u>1,441,053</u>
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		527,620	499,435
IPU Assemblies, Conferences and outward delegations		304,371	349,456
Inward delegations and Days in Parliament		48,780	126,593
All party groups		361	1,776
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	3	537,211	512,715
Printing, stationery and publications		2,086	3,175
Postage and telephone		-	13
IT Consumables		156	399
Member services and events in the UK		11,388	12,947
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		10,338	10,164
Insurance		4,874	6,467
General hospitality		439	1,968
Other expenses		4,452	8,418
Depreciation of fixed assets	5	1,483	1,900
		<u>1,453,559</u>	<u>1,544,426</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	9	<u>131,888</u>	<u>(103,373)</u>
Opening reserves		520,686	624,059
Closing reserves	9	<u>652,574</u>	<u>520,686</u>

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all activities are continuing activities.

There are no other items to be recognised in other comprehensive income.

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet

at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets	5		7,309		6,531
Current assets					
Debtors	6	-		11,590	
Prepayments and accrued income	6	465,719		397,404	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	247,106		449,127	
		712,825		858,121	
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(67,560)		(343,966)	
Net current assets			645,265		514,155
Net assets			652,574		520,686
Financed by:					
General fund	9		652,574		520,686
			652,574		520,686

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 16 July 2025.

(Signed)

Fabian Hamilton MP
BGIPU Chair

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Honorary Treasurer

Cash flow statement

at 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities		
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	131,888	(103,373)
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(6,354)	(5,510)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(56,725)	(25,578)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(276,406)	302,925
Depreciation charge	1,483	1,900
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,261)	(2,416)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(208,375)</u>	<u>167,948</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	6,354	5,510
Net cash flow from investing activities	<u>6,354</u>	<u>5,510</u>
Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(202,021)	173,458
Cash at the beginning of the year	449,127	275,669
Cash at bank and in hand at the end of the year	<u>247,106</u>	<u>449,127</u>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the organisation's financial statements.

1.1 Legal form

The BGIPU is an unincorporated entity, acting as an autonomous body within Parliament and is an independent parliamentary association. The Group is domiciled in the United Kingdom and the address of its registered office and principal place of business is the Palace of Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. Details of the principal activity of the BGIPU are included in the Annual Governance Statement on page 41.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The BGIPU is not required by law to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act and generally accepted accounting principles. However, as explained in the Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities, the Executive Committee has accepted that these financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of the financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the accounting policies (see note 2).

The following accounting policies have been applied:

1.3 Fixed assets and depreciation

All assets over £100 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows;

Office equipment	- 15% per annum straight line on cost, then 10% in year 7
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Computers and software - 25% per annum

no depreciation is provided on paintings or the commemorative bell. There is no available market value, but it is thought that the current market value would exceed the carrying amount.

1.4 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

1.6 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price.

1.7 Pension costs

The organisation makes payments to both defined contribution pension schemes and personal pension plans for the benefit of its employees.

Contributions payable to the schemes are charged against income in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade and other payables or receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration, expected to be paid or received. However if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an outright short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

1.9 Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

The company's functional and presentational currency is GBP.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the actual rate of exchange used when either converting currency, making payments by bank transfer or making payments by way of credit card. Any reimbursement to delegates or staff will be at either the actual rate suffered or up to 3% above the rate prevailing at the time of the transaction to account for standard bank and credit card charges. At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction.

1.10 Grant in aid

Grant in aid is recognised as income in the financial statements in the period to which the grant relates.

Grant in aid for the year ended 31 March 2025 of £1,579,062 (2024: £1,435,512) has been provided by the House of Commons and the House of Lords; contributing 70% and 30% respectively.

1.11 Conference, delegation and all party group expenditure

Expenditure in respect of conferences, inward and outward delegations and seminars is charged against income in the period in which the event occurs.

1.12 Interest receivable

Interest earned on all bank accounts is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

1.13 Donations / Subscriptions received

On 1 February 2011, the Executive Committee voted to suspend the annual membership fees. At the AGM in November 2011, the BGIPU Rules were formally amended abolishing the requirement for membership fees. However, there would be no refunds of unnecessary payments, which will be treated as donations in the future.

2 Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No significant judgements have had to be made by management in preparing these financial statements.

3 Staff costs

The total emoluments paid to employees during the year, including pension contributions are disclosed in the income and expenditure account. Staff costs include all independent consultancy fees.

The number of BGIPU employees for the majority of the year was 7 (2024: 8).

Staff costs, including director’s remuneration, were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	402,488	397,548
Social security costs	46,087	44,575
Pension costs	55,952	53,670
Other costs	32,684	25,922
	<u>537,211</u>	<u>521,715</u>

4 Tax status

The BGIPU acts as an autonomous body within Parliament and as such is treated as an independent parliamentary association and accordingly is not chargeable to tax.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Paintings	Commemorative bell	Office equipment	Computers and software	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At beginning of year	3,183	890	501	29,955	34,529
Additions	-	-	-	2,261	2,261
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At end of year	3,183	890	501	32,216	36,790
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	439	27,559	27,998
Charge for year	-	-	19	1,464	1,483
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At end of year	-	-	458	29,023	29,481
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	3,183	890	43	3,193	7,309
At 31 March 2024	3,183	890	62	2,396	6,531

6 Debtors: amounts receivable within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	465,719	397,404
Other debtors	-	11,590
	465,719	408,994

7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	235,649	437,540
Non-interest earning bank current account	10,000	10,000
Cash in hand	1,457	1,587
	<u>247,106</u>	<u>449,127</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	23,894	2,316
Accruals and prepaid income	19,110	301,285
Social security and other taxes	15,127	16,436
Other Creditors	9,429	23,929
	<u>67,560</u>	<u>343,966</u>

9 Reserves

General fund

This reserve comprises all current and prior period retained surplus and deficits.

	General Fund £
Balance at 31 March 2024	520,686
Deficit for the year	131,888
Balance at 31 March 2025	<u>652,574</u>

In accordance with HM Government accounting rules, the annual grant in aid income awarded to the organisation is not paid to the BGIPU until the funds are actually required to meet expenditure budgeted for the year. The BGIPU submits returns to the funding providers covering income and expenditure, cash position and adjusted reserves for the previous period and forecasts for the year, before quarterly

instalments of grant in aid are agreed and paid. The funding provider advances cash to the organisation when it is required to meet expenditure.

The General Fund balance is carried forward into the next financial year and is unaffected by the change in funding arrangement of the grant in aid.

10 Pension commitments

Contributions payable by the company relating to both defined contribution pension schemes and personal pension plans for the year amounted to £55,952 (2024: £53,670). At the year end, £4,403 (2024: £4,708) remained unpaid.

11 Published financial statements

The approved financial statements will be made publicly available on the website of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at www.bgipu.org.

12 Related party transactions

During the year persons who were members of the Executive Committee at any time during the financial year incurred reimbursable expenditure while participating in delegations on behalf of the organisation totalling £14,430 (2024: £14,071). At the year-end, £Nil (2024: £Nil) was outstanding.

13 Controlling party

The entity is under the control of the Executive Committee and the Director.

IPU

HEADQUARTERS

Executive Committee of the IPU

The IPU Governing Council is the plenary policy-making body of the IPU. Oversight of the administration and advice to the Governing Council is provided by an Executive Committee composed as follows;

Members	Expiry of term
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President:

Dr. T. Ackson (Tanzania)	October 2026
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Vice-President:

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland)	October 2027
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Members:

Mr. X. Iacovelli (France)	October 2026
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Ms. A. Sarangi (India)	October 2026
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Ms I. K. Godalena (DRC)	March 2027
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Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan)	October 2027
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Ms. N.B. Mutti (Zambia)	October 2027
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Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia)	October 2027
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Mr. M. Dick (Australia)	October 2027
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Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil)	October 2027
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Mr. G.O. Akpabio (Nigeria)	October 2027
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Ms. M. d. C. Alva Prieto (Peru)	October 2028
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Ms. H. B. H. Al-Sulaiti (Qatar)	March 2029
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Mr. H. Aden Gueddi (Djibouti)	October 2029
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Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium)	October 2029
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Ms. K. Bradley (United Kingdom)	October 2029
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Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) Ex	March 2027
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Officio

Mrs. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) Ex Officio	March 2027
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Liaison with the International Secretariat

The BGIPU Secretariat has maintained regular and constructive contact with the IPU Secretariat in Geneva on a wide range of issues on the IPU agenda. In visits to IPU Headquarters from the Secretariat, Joe Perry and Henry Collison attended the IPU's Annual Information Seminar from 20-23 May.

There was also close cooperation at both the 150th and 151st IPU Assemblies in Tashkent and Geneva in April and October respectively, at the UN/IPU Parliamentary Hearing in New York on 13-14 February, at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women in New York on 11 March, at the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held on 14-15 March in Mexico City, at the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Rome from 19-21 June, at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (2025) in Geneva on 29-31 July, at the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Lima on 11-13 September, at the 11th G20 Speakers' Conference in Cape Town from 1-3 October, and at the Parliamentary Meeting at COP30 in Belem on 14 November.

The British Group continues to enjoy excellent relations at all levels and maintains a strong record of cooperation with the IPU President and the Secretariat in Geneva. The contact details for the Secretary General of the IPU are:

Mr Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

5, Chemin Du Pommier

Case Postale 330

CH-1218 Le Grand Saconnex

Geneva, SWITZERLAND

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50

E-Mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Website: www.ipu.org

Twitter: [@IPUparliament](https://twitter.com/IPUparliament)

National Groups of the IPU

As of November 2025 there are 183 Members and 14 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Afghanistan	Chad	Greece
Albania	Chile	Guatemala
Algeria	China	Guinea
Andorra	Colombia	Guinea-Bissau
Angola	Comoros	Guyana
Argentina	Congo	Haiti
Armenia	Costa Rica	Honduras
Australia	Côte d'Ivoire	Hungary
Austria	Croatia	Iceland
Azerbaijan	Cuba	India
Bahamas	Cyprus	Indonesia
Bahrain	Czech Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bangladesh	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Iraq
Belarus	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ireland
Belgium	Denmark	Israel
Belize	Djibouti	Italy
Benin	Dominican Republic	Jamaica
Bhutan	Ecuador	Japan
Bolivia (Plurinational State Of)	Egypt	Jordan
Bosnia & Herzegovina	El Salvador	Kazakhstan
Botswana	Equatorial Guinea	Kenya
Brazil	Estonia	Kuwait
Brunei Darussalam	Eswatini	Kyrgyzstan
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Burkina Faso	Fiji	Latvia
Burundi	Finland	Lebanon
Cabo Verde	France	Lesotho
Cambodia	Gabon	Liberia
Cameroon	Gambia	Libya
Canada	Georgia	Liechtenstein
Central African Republic	Germany	Lithuania
	Ghana	

Luxembourg	Portugal	Turkmenistan
Madagascar	Qatar	Tuvalu
Malawi	Republic of Korea	Uganda
Malaysia	Republic of Moldova	Ukraine
Maldives	Romania	United Arab Emirates
Mali	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Malta	Rwanda	United Republic of Tanzania
Marshall Islands	Saint Lucia	Uruguay
Mauritania	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Uzbekistan
Mauritius	Samoa	Vanuatu
Mexico	San Marino	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic Of)
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Sao Tome & Principe	Viet Nam
Monaco	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Mongolia	Senegal	Zambia
Montenegro	Serbia	Zimbabwe
Morocco	Seychelles	
Mozambique	Sierra Leone	
Myanmar	Singapore	
Namibia	Slovakia	
Nepal	Slovenia	
Netherlands	Somalia	
New Zealand	South Africa	
Nicaragua	South Sudan	
Niger	Spain	
Nigeria	Sri Lanka	
North Macedonia	Suriname	
Norway	Sweden	
Oman	Switzerland	
Pakistan	Syrian Arab Republic	
Palau	Tajikistan	
Palestine	Thailand	
Panama	Timor-Leste	
Papua New Guinea	Togo	
Paraguay	Tonga	
Peru	Trinidad & Tobago	
Philippines	Tunisia	
	Türkiye	

Associate Members

Andean Parliament

Arab Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the
Commonwealth of Independent States

Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and
Monetary Union

Latin American and Caribbean Parliament

Mercosur Parliament (PARLASUR)

Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Details of funding granted in support of All Party Parliamentary Group Activities in the period November 2024 to November 2025

Each year, BGIPU approves financial assistance to a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) which apply for support.

APPGs eligible for BGIPU support consist of informal cross party groupings of parliamentarians from both Houses with an interest in the affairs of a specific country, including exchanges with parliamentary counterparts in that country. In 2023 the Executive Committee decided to limit funding to reimbursing the cost of inward delegation hospitality hosted by APPGs.

APPG Nordic Countries

Assistance totalling £36.30 was provided to the Nordic Countries APPG for light refreshments for members of the APPG for a meeting to discuss defence and security around Nordic countries in March 2025.

APPG Ukraine

Assistance totalling £265.10 was provided to the Ukraine APPG for dinner with members of the APPG and Ukrainian parliamentarians in the House of Commons restaurant in March 2025.

Assistance totalling £343.31 was provided to the Ukraine APPG for dinner with members of the APPG and Ukrainian parliamentarians in the House of Commons restaurant in May 2025.

Assistance totalling £159.56 was provided to the Ukraine APPG for dinner with members of the APPG and Ukrainian parliamentarians in the House of Commons restaurant in October 2025.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BRITISH GROUP IPU

	Position	Commenced
Mr Rick Nimmo	Director	May 2012
Ms Dominique Rees MBE	Deputy Director	April 1998
Ms Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison	Finance & Administration Manager	July 2008
Ms Rhiannon Edwards	Multilateral Programme Manager	September 2016
Mr Joe Perry	International Project Manager	October 2023
Mr Henry Collison	International Project Manager	June 2023
Ms Chiara De Vita	International Project Manager	September 2025

STAFF MOVEMENTS

With acknowledgement and gratitude to BGIPU Secretariat staff who left our employment following the last Annual General Meeting.

	Position	Left Employment
Ms Mathilde Ollivo	International Project Manager	September 2025



**Contact details of the Secretariat of the British
Group IPU**

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