

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH GROUP INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

2026

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BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP, with former IPU President, Tulia Akson, and IPU Secretary General, Anda Filip in the IPU Room in front of a statue of IPU founder Randal Cremer in September 2026.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



Fabian Hamilton

MP

Chair, BGIPU

The past year has once again demonstrated both the challenges and the enduring importance of parliamentary diplomacy. Against a backdrop of continuing conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East, pressure on democratic institutions and growing uncertainty in international affairs, the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) has continued to provide opportunities for parliamentarians to meet, exchange perspectives and work together across national and political divides. At a time when confidence in international institutions is often tested, such engagement remains indispensable.

I have been particularly grateful for the support of colleagues from both Houses, including our Officers, Executive Committee and the many Members who have participated in our delegations and activities. BGIPU is, above all, a members' organisation, and the willingness of parliamentarians from across the political spectrum to contribute their time, experience and judgement is central to everything we achieve.

Since our last AGM, BGIPU has undertaken five outward bilateral parliamentary visits, to Sweden in January, Moldova and Romania in March, Bosnia and Herzegovina in late March and early April, Lithuania in June and Kazakhstan in September. Each provided opportunities to deepen understanding of developments affecting our partners and to exchange views on security, regional stability, democratic institutions and parliamentary accountability. Our engagement with Moldova, Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina was particularly timely given the continuing importance of European security and democratic resilience. In Kazakhstan, our delegation had the opportunity to engage with parliamentary counterparts following significant institutional reform, including a visit to the new unicameral parliament, the Kuryltai.

We have been equally pleased to welcome parliamentary colleagues to

Westminster. Formal inward visits from France, Poland, Ukraine, Italy and Guatemala enabled Members of both Houses to discuss matters of shared concern directly with their counterparts and to demonstrate the value of sustained parliamentary relationships.

The visit by our Ukrainian colleagues in March was especially significant as we continue to express solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia's aggression. These exchanges also remind us that parliamentary diplomacy can create space for frank and constructive discussion that is not always possible through more formal diplomatic channels.

Our engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union itself has remained a cornerstone of the Group's work. The 152nd IPU Assembly, held in Istanbul in April 2026, considered how parliaments could nurture hope, secure peace and ensure justice for future generations. It adopted resolutions on post-conflict management and the restoration of a just and lasting peace, and on the contribution of parliaments to a fair and sustainable global economy. An emergency resolution called for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions. The discussions were a reminder that, even amid profound differences, parliamentary debate and negotiation can help advance shared objectives.

Istanbul also brought important decisions about the IPU's future. The adoption of the Strategy for 2027 to 2031 set a framework for the organisation's priorities, while the British Group continued to make the case for an inclusive approach to human rights and democratic participation. The election of Anda Filip as the IPU's first woman Secretary General was a significant milestone and an opportunity to renew attention to the effectiveness, accountability and relevance of the organisation.

The 153rd Assembly in Arusha in October was especially notable for the United Kingdom. For the first time, the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, led the British Group's delegation. His participation sent a powerful signal of the UK Parliament's commitment to the IPU and to international parliamentary

cooperation. The Assembly considered good governance, inclusivity, trust and opportunity, and adopted a resolution on the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities, together with an emergency resolution on climate-related disasters and resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions. Its proceedings also addressed the future of work in the age of artificial intelligence and reform of the United Nations.

A particularly important outcome at Arusha was the election of Milton Dick, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, as President of the IPU. He received 182 votes, ahead of the candidates from Azerbaijan and Chile, who secured 124 and 21 votes respectively. The British Group was pleased to support his candidacy, recognising his parliamentary experience and commitment to inclusive and effective cooperation. With a new President and Secretary General now in place, the IPU has an important opportunity to strengthen its effectiveness and the confidence of its members.

Beyond the two Assemblies, BGIPU has continued to engage in the wider international parliamentary agenda, including work on democratic governance, artificial intelligence, the contribution of young parliamentarians and relations between parliaments and the United Nations. We have also supported engagement with democratic representatives from Belarus and with partners seeking to strengthen parliamentary institutions and political dialogue. I was especially pleased that the IPU President and Secretary General visited Westminster in September, providing a valuable opportunity to reinforce the relationship between the UK Parliament and the IPU at a time of institutional change.

Taken together, our bilateral exchanges, participation in IPU Assemblies and wider parliamentary activities have underlined the distinctive contribution which Members of both Houses can make to Britain's international relationships. BGIPU's cross-party and impartial character remains one of its greatest strengths. It enables parliamentarians with differing political views to work constructively together and to represent the UK Parliament in a spirit of openness, mutual respect and democratic solidarity.

Acknowledgements

None of this work would be possible without the commitment of parliamentary colleagues who give so generously of their time. I particularly wish to thank my fellow Officers and members of the Executive Committee for their support, sound judgement and willingness to share responsibilities throughout an exceptionally busy year. For me personally, it has also been a challenging period, and I have greatly valued their understanding and encouragement.

My thanks are also extended to the Speakers' Offices, the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Offices of both Houses, the FCDO and the many parliamentary colleagues and departments whose cooperation helps make our programme possible. Above all, I wish to recognise Rick Nimmo and the entire BGIPU Secretariat for their professionalism, dedication and unfailing support. Much of their work takes place behind the scenes, but it is fundamental to the Group's success.

As we look ahead, I remain convinced that parliamentary diplomacy has an essential role to play in building understanding, sustaining dialogue and defending democratic values. BGIPU will continue to provide a means by which the UK Parliament can make a constructive and distinctive contribution to those efforts.

Fabian Hamilton MP
Chair, British Group IPU
28 October 2026

Director's Report



Rick Nimmo
Director,
BGIPU

It is my privilege to present this Director's Report on the work of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) during 2026. This has been another demanding year, combining extensive international parliamentary activity with the responsibilities of maintaining a small, effective and accountable organisation. While the Chair's Report records the wider parliamentary significance of our engagements, my focus is on how the Secretariat has supported their delivery, strengthened our working arrangements and continued to serve Members of both Houses to a high standard.

Governance and Strategic Direction

The 2025/26 to 2027/28 Strategic Business Plan has continued to provide the framework for our work. Its four objectives remain sound governance and administration, effective UK participation in the IPU and other multilateral fora, a balanced programme of bilateral exchanges, and stronger outreach and communications. Our task has been to deliver these objectives while remaining responsive to parliamentary priorities and changing international circumstances.

BGIPU's governance arrangements have continued to operate effectively. Five meetings of the Executive Committee and two meetings of the Audit Committee took place during the 2025/26 financial year, alongside the work of the Selection Committee. Regular scrutiny of our programme, risk register and administrative arrangements has been essential to maintaining accountability under the Financial Memorandum agreed with both Houses in June 2024.

The principal organisational challenge has remained sustaining a broad programme with limited resources and a Secretariat of seven posts.

More integrated working, clearer prioritisation and careful use of digital tools, including appropriate applications of artificial intelligence, have helped improve efficiency. Such innovations must be balanced with professional judgement, information security and the impartiality expected of a parliamentary organisation.

Financial Management

Sound financial stewardship remains central to BGIPU's operations. The Secretariat maintained close control of commitments, competitive procurement and monitoring of expenditure. The Group again received an unqualified external audit opinion, reflecting its established financial controls.

International travel costs, exchange-rate movements and the timing of the annual IPU subscription continue to create pressures on our planning. Our 2026 funding submission therefore concentrated on preserving existing services and meeting unavoidable cost pressures rather than expanding our remit. Detailed financial results are set out separately in the Treasurer's report.

Programme Delivery

BGIPU maintained a substantial programme of bilateral exchanges, IPU activity and shorter parliamentary engagements. In the 2025/26 financial year, the Secretariat organised nine outward delegations, six inward delegations and seven shorter Days in Parliament. These required considerable work in selecting and briefing Members, developing programmes with partner parliaments, managing travel and security arrangements, and ensuring visits were properly reported and followed up.

Outward Delegations

Our outward programme continued to be guided by geographical balance, Members' interests and the potential for substantive engagement with partner parliaments. Each visit required close cooperation with parliamentary counterparts and overseas posts to ensure meetings addressed issues of shared concern. A continuing

priority has been to turn individual visits into sustained relationships through good preparation, informed discussion and effective follow-up.

Inward Delegations and Short Visits

The inward programme and shorter visits to Westminster have been equally important, enabling visiting parliamentarians to observe both Houses at first hand and providing Members with opportunities for direct and often frank exchanges. Close cooperation with the International Parliamentary Relations Offices and colleagues across Parliament has been indispensable to delivering these programmes.

UK Participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Supporting UK participation in the IPU remains one of the Secretariat's most complex responsibilities. The 152nd Assembly in Istanbul in April and the 153rd Assembly in Arusha in October, together with committee meetings, geopolitical group consultations and specialist conferences, demanded extensive preparation and coordination. Beyond the outcomes described in the Chair's Report, our work involved selecting delegates, preparing briefings, coordinating policy advice and supporting Members through sometimes difficult procedural and diplomatic discussions.

The election of a new IPU Secretary General and President, together with adoption of the organisation's next strategy, made this an important year for institutional engagement. We continued working closely with the IPU Secretariat and our partners in the Twelve Plus Group, drawing on institutional knowledge to help Members navigate the organisation's rules and practices and make informed, constructive contributions.

The September visit to Westminster by the IPU President and Secretary General reinforced these relationships. The Secretariat also supported participation in specialist parliamentary discussions on human rights, young parliamentarians, artificial intelligence and the United Nations, reflecting commitments beyond the two principal Assemblies.

Human Resources and Secretariat

The professionalism and resilience of the Secretariat remain BGIPU's greatest asset. Operating with seven posts, one fewer than in earlier years, colleagues have shared responsibilities, responded to changing demands and maintained high standards of support for Members. Recruitment, induction, staff development and retention of institutional knowledge have all required attention during the year.

We have continued to refine procedures for travel risk assessment, delegation administration, procurement and secure handling of personal information. Overseas travel, including to more challenging destinations, makes these safeguards particularly important. Improved systems and technologies can support our work but must never compromise care, confidentiality or accountability.

I record my particular thanks to Deputy Director Dominique Rees MBE for her leadership and sound judgement, and to Finance and Administration Manager Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison for her diligence and expertise. I also acknowledge the valued contribution of Joe Perry, who left BGIPU in June 2026, and thank all Secretariat colleagues for their exceptional commitment.

Outreach, Communications and Partnerships

Engagement with Members of both Houses has remained a priority as the Parliament elected in 2024 has become more established. By encouraging participation from newer and experienced Members alike, we have sought to maintain the broad, cross-party character of BGIPU's activities and build parliamentary experience in international affairs.
Our website, delegation reports and other communications continue to make the Group's work visible and accessible. Social media remains useful, although misinformation, reliability and reputational risk require careful judgement. Partnerships with the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, the John Smith Trust, now known as the Just Society Trust, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and other organisations

continue to bring specialist knowledge and additional perspectives to our activities.

Our working relationship with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has been especially valuable in planning visits and obtaining political and regional advice, while colleagues in the International Parliamentary Relations Offices and other parliamentary departments have provided indispensable practical support.

Conclusion

BGIPU has again demonstrated that a small and committed Secretariat can sustain a significant international programme through careful planning, teamwork and sound administration. The achievements of parliamentary diplomacy depend on considerable preparation behind the scenes, and I am proud of our colleagues' contribution in enabling Members of both Houses to engage effectively with international counterparts.

I express my sincere appreciation to our Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP, our other Officers and the Executive Committee for their guidance and support, and to the Speakers of both Houses and their offices. I also thank Sarah Hartwell-Naguib and Susie Latta in the International Parliamentary Relations Offices, and colleagues across Parliament who assist us throughout the year. At the FCDO, I particularly acknowledge Rory Dickson, who left his interparliamentary liaison role in September 2026 after providing BGIPU with valued support.

Above all, I pay tribute to the entire BGIPU Secretariat. The professionalism, good humour and dedication of colleagues have enabled us to meet demanding expectations while maintaining the best traditions of responsive and effective parliamentary service.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
28 October 2026

Minutes of the 2024-25 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 26 November 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union was held on Wednesday 26 November 2025. 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 this Annual General Meeting to order.

I extend a warm welcome to everybody. I hope we have had time to read the 2025 Annual Report, which was published on the BGIPU website on 4 November 2025. There are hard copies available for those who want to take one away.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any apologies?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

There are 13 apologies.

Item 3: Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2024

MR SPEAKER:

We are now required to adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Wednesday 13 November 2024. These are printed on pages 22 to 34 of the 2025 Annual Report. May I have a proposer and seconder, please?

(*Proposed by Chris Law and seconded by Wera Hobhouse.)*

There we are. Do we all accept that they are a true record? All those in favour? Those against? Marvellous. The minutes are adopted.

Item 4: Matters arising from the minutes

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any matters arising from the minutes?

RICK NIMMO:

None has been notified.

Item 5: Adoption of the Annual Report for 2025

MR SPEAKER:

I now invite the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Minister to propose the adoption of the 2025 Annual Report.

CHRIS ELMORE MP:

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am sorry to rush in. I note that the agenda advertises a Minister of State in the Foreign Office, but I am afraid that you have a mere Parliamentary Under-Secretary. [Members: "Shame!"] I apologise—I will have a chat with the Prime Minister.

Seriously, though, it is great to be with you all this afternoon. Let me first thank Rick, Dominique and the whole IPU team for all their hard work in organising today's event and all the work they do across the year for the IPU and all Members across both Houses.

Let me also say a word about my friend and colleague Fabian Hamilton,

who has had a fantastic year as Chair. You really have led from the front. The best sort of election for a politician is always an uncontested election for your next year in the chair. You headed two bilateral delegations, to Morocco and Mongolia, and represented the UK at the IPU Assembly, showing your clear leadership in your role as Chair of this great institution. It is a clear sign of your energy and focus, and I really do wish you all the best in the year ahead.

May I also congratulate Dame Karen Bradley on her election to the Executive Committee this year? It is always nice when you can talk in speeches about people you know and like—it is much easier. That is a great achievement and a sign of the UK's influence in the global parliamentary network.

The Union's work this year has been impressively wide-ranging. You have led and hosted delegations with partners across Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, building ties and deepening relationships at a time when dialogue matters more than ever. In particular, I want to acknowledge the IPU's delegation who visited the Dominican Republic and learned more about the situation in Haiti. For those who do not know, I am looking forward to meeting that delegation soon—before Christmas, all being well—to talk about Haiti.

Of course, your work goes beyond bilateral engagements. Our parliamentarians have been out there making a real impact on the global stage, whether at COP, the UN or IPU assemblies, showing leadership on the big issues of our time, from climate to gender equality and giving young people a voice. These are the challenges that shape all our futures, and you have been right at the heart of those conversations. I am truly grateful.

What is more, your roundtables on pressing issues like press freedom, something I care deeply about, and orphanage trafficking have helped to showcase our Parliament's commitment to global dialogue and advocacy. One example that stood out was the delegation to Colombia, led by Dan Carden, to meet President Petro—I must say that I enjoyed reading that DipTel just last week. That engagement helped to challenge some misconceptions and truly goes to show what effective parliamentary engagement can achieve.

It has clearly been a year of great progress, and on behalf of the FCDO I want to thank you for everything you are doing to strengthen Britain's voice abroad. With that in mind, I am pleased to formally propose that the Annual Report be adopted.

MR SPEAKER:

I now invite the Shadow Minister of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Rt Hon. Wendy Morton MP, to second the 2025 Annual Report.

RT HON. WENDY MORTON MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Chair, colleagues, fellow members of the BGIPU, thank you for inviting me for a second year to second the Annual Report. It is always a pleasure to speak at your AGM. I add my thanks to our Chair, Fabian, for his leadership, and to Rick Nimmo, Dominique, Gabriella and the whole secretariat for all the work that you do. It is a small team, but you deliver a global programme, and you somehow manage the unique feat of balancing competing demands, complex logistical arrangements and probably quite complex parliamentary timetables—and probably complex parliamentarians at times, too. You do that with remarkable professionalism and patience, and we all owe you our sincere appreciation.

Over the past year, the BGIPU has demonstrated once again that parliamentary diplomacy is not an optional extra, but essential. Whether we look at the continuing war in Ukraine, the ongoing crises in the middle east or the wider erosion of democratic norms, the opportunity for parliamentarians to engage directly with one another is more important than ever. It gives us a really important space to ask questions, to listen and to build the important relationships that underpin long-term understanding.

The report sets out an extensive programme of work; in fact, it is really impressive. Outward delegations have travelled from Westminster to places as varied as Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Mongolia, the Dominican Republic and Senegal. I firmly believe that these visits give colleagues a perspective that cannot be gained from a briefing note. They help us to understand the pressures and priorities of our counterparts

overseas and strengthen the links that support the UK's wider foreign policy goals. I look forward to visiting Sweden with a BGIPU delegation next year. I know that that will give us an important insight.

Likewise, I always welcome inward delegations. We have seen them this year from Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Jordan, Spain—the list goes on, and rightly so. It is one of the most valuable things we do. There is something really important and valuable about inviting colleagues into our Parliament, showing them our Committees and procedures, and being able to have open discussions about democracy, accountability and political culture.

This year we also saw a strong programme of events here at Westminster. I was delighted to chair a session as part of the parliamentary dimension of the Berlin process for Western Balkan partners. At a time when that particular region faces political and social pressures, it was good to see that constructive engagement and to hear at first hand from parliamentarians from across the Western Balkans. It was a reminder of the positive role that the BGIPU can play in supporting stability, dialogue and democratic development.

On the multilateral stage, UK participation in IPU assemblies and conferences has again been active. From the parliamentary hearing at the UN to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, colleagues have brought British perspectives to debates on a huge range of topics. These contributions really matter, making sure that the UK Parliament has a voice at the table.

Speaking personally, having served in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office as a Minister and now on the Opposition Front Bench, I have seen how much we gain from the work of the IPU and the BGIPU. Whether it is meeting inbound delegations—we have just had a delegation from Belarus—travelling overseas or taking part in discussions, this work adds depth and insight into our work as legislators. It helps us to understand how global challenges elsewhere can impact on us here in the UK.

I thank colleagues from all parties in both Houses. The strength of the BGIPU lies in its cross-party engagement. The breadth of participation this year demonstrates that beyond all doubt.

Chair, it is an honour to once again second the Annual Report of the BGIPU for 2025.

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you, Chris and Wendy. The 2025 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. Is it agreed that we adopt the report? All those in favour please raise your hand. Any against? We will adopt the report.

Item 6: Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 by BGIPU Treasurer, Rt Hon. Dame Karen Bradley MP

MR SPEAKER:

We now move to Item 6 of our agenda, which concerns the BGIPU's financial accounts. The Rt Hon. Dame Karen Bradley, Honorary Treasurer of the BGIPU, is to present the financial statements and Annual Report.

RT HON. DAME KAREN BRADLEY MP:

The moment you have all been waiting for: I present the financial statements and annual governance statement for the year ending 31 March 2025, shown at pages 40 to 66 of our 2025 annual report, which covers the 2024-25 financial year.

Kreston Reeves LLP conducted the audit again this year, and I would like to welcome Emily Elphick, audit assistant manager, who is representing Kreston Reeves here today.

On page 50 of the 2025 annual report, our auditors present their unqualified opinion of the financial statements. The audit committee met on 3 July 2025 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the financial statements, which Fabian as Chair and I as Treasurer signed on behalf of the Executive Committee. We did that on 16 July 2025. It does not say this in my notes, because she wrote them, but it would not be possible without Gabriella. She is the one who does all of the work on this and she is utterly amazing, so I thank her.

The income and expenditure account appears on page 57. Income increased from £1,441,053 to £1,585,447, a 10% increase, with the Group receiving £1,579,062 grant in aid from both Houses, which was 100% of the available funding amount. Bank interest increased from £5,510 to £6,354 due to increased interest rates in the period.

Overall expenditure decreased by £90,867, a reduction of 6%; I will not read out from what amount to what amount, because you can read it yourself. BGIPU's annual subscription to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva is set in Swiss francs and for 2025 it amounted to 579,700 CHF, which was an increase of 3% or 16,200 CHF on the previous year.

The sterling payment was £518,362, which was a small decrease of £959 compared with the previous year, thanks to a stronger pound. As the IPU subscription covers the calendar year, only one quarter of the 2025 payment is recognised in the financial year, with the remaining three quarters treated as a prepayment on the balance sheet, in line with accounting standard FRS 102. All monetary assets are retranslated at the year-end exchange rate, resulting in a year-end adjustment of £7,193. This brings the total figure recognised in the income and expenditure account to £526,274.

The Twelve Plus group subscription, which is charged in euros, remained the same in 2025, but the sterling amount decreased from £1,387 to £1,346, due to exchange rate variations.

In terms of programme expenditure, the 149th IPU Assembly fell within the 2024-25 financial year, and it took place in Geneva in October 2024, at a cost of £22,787. I think that we only have one Assembly in this financial year, because the spring Assembly in Tashkent fell in April rather than March, which is why we only have the one in this year.

A busy bilateral programme took place in the financial year, with outward delegations to Colombia, Germany, Latvia, Qatar, Hungary, Indonesia and Cote d'Ivoire, and there were also costs for Mongolia and Cote d'Ivoire that were postponed. There are late spends for the Oman and Costa Rica-Panama visits in the previous year. The total cost of those delegations was £168,309.

Three visits to the UK took place in the financial year, from Ukraine, Moldova and Albania. Unfortunately, four visits were cancelled, from Moldova, Egypt and Ukraine and then from Egypt again—I think they were having some political difficulties.

There were also several days in Parliament hosting counterparts from Moldova, Iceland, Colombia, Ukraine, France, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Armenia, Mongolia and three visits from John Smith Trust fellows. The total spend on inward delegations and days in Parliament was £48,780.

In the financial year, successful bids to the BGIPU for funding were made by three APPGs, with a total cost of £361, and they supported the activities of the APPGs for Serbia, Nordic Countries and Ukraine.

The cost of staff salaries and related expenses increased from £521,715 to £537,211, reflecting a pay increase effective from April 2024 and a one-off non-consolidated payment to eligible BGIPU staff, 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 here in the IPU Room, on international relations issues or interparliamentary priorities, to promote the work of the BGIPU within Parliament and raise awareness of key areas of the IPU agenda. This cost £11,388 in total, which was a decrease in expenditure of £1,559 for the year, and that includes the cost of hosting our website, which was £660.

Funding support of £7,000 to the Parliamentary Human Rights Group is also included under the member services item, given that the Human Rights Group provides extensive and highly valued briefing for members. It is part of a long-standing mutual co-operation agreement. I must say that whenever we go on any delegation, the support we get from the Human Rights Group is absolutely fantastic—[Interruption.] I was going to say that I was sure I saw Nicole here; there you are. Thank you, Nicole.

General hospitality costs have decreased by £1,529. Audit fees increased slightly this year by £174 and external insurance costs decreased slightly

by £1,593. Insurance costs of £4,874 include travel insurance, group personal accident insurance and general office insurance, as well as director and officers' liability insurance.

I will not read out the whole balance sheet on page 58, because you can read it, but it shows that net assets have increased to £652,574, and fixed assets have also increased to £7,309. Prepayments have increased by £68,315, predominantly due to payments made in the last quarter of the year for the free scheduled Mongolia outward delegation and prepayments for the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, which, as I have already said, took place in the first quarter of the next financial year.

I will not read out the whole balance sheet on page 58, because you can read it, but it shows that net assets have increased to £652,574, and fixed assets have also increased to £7,309. Prepayments have increased by £68,315, predominantly due to payments made in the last quarter of the year for the free scheduled Mongolia outward delegation and prepayments for the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, which, as I have already said, took place in the first quarter of the next financial year.

On page 59 you will find the cash flow statement, which shows that the overall surplus for the year was £131,888; but, when adjustments for investments are factored in, there was a net decrease in cash reserves, as you can see. That is due in large part to an unexpected early payment of House of Commons funding, which for accounting purposes needed to be treated as deferred income in the previous year's financial year accounts, but was subsequently released in April 2024.

The financial memorandum signed in late 2020 was in effect at the beginning of 2024-25, with a new one signed in June 2024. The annual report containing these financial statements was published on the BGIPU website on Tuesday 4 November 2025, prior to the AGM, and is also available in the room today.

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any questions?

WERA HOBHOUSE MP:

This is really quirky, but how, when insurance is going up everywhere,

did the IPU manage to get its insurance costs down?

RICK NIMMO:

We renegotiated the policy.

RT HON. DAME KAREN BRADLEY MP:

It was Gabriella; she was brilliant at renegotiating. This is why I say that all credit goes to Gabriella for every bit of this.

MR SPEAKER:

Excellent. Well done, Gabriella.

Item 7: Re-appointment of Auditors

MR SPEAKER:

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

(Proposed by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi and seconded by Gagan Mohindra.)

Kreston Reeves are duly appointed.

Item 8: Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2025-26

MR SPEAKER:

I now move on to the BGIPU's elections. 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 in a notice posted by the Secretariat on 19 November on the BGIPU website. If there are no objections, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are duly confirmed in accordance with usual arrangements.

Regarding the composition of the BGIPU Executive Committee, all members are standing unopposed, including four Officer posts as already advised to members in the 19 November election notice. I am very pleased therefore to confirm that the following Officers and the Executive Committee members are elected unopposed: As Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP, as two Vice-Chairs, Dan Carden MP and Alicia Kearns MP, as Vice-Chair for the House of Lords, Rt Hon Baroness Northover, and as Treasurer Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP.

Standing unopposed as Government party Committee members are Phil Brickell MP, Dawn Butler MP, Pam Cox MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Clive Lewis MP, John Slinger MP, Alex Sobel MP, Jessica Morden MP and Kate Osamor MP. Standing unopposed as Opposition Committee members are Dame Harriett Baldwin DBE MP, Gagan Mohindra MP, Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP, Wera Hobhouse MP and Chris Law MP. Standing unopposed as Committee member Peers, Baroness Blower, Baroness Curran, Lord Dubs, Baroness Hooper, Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, Lord Cromwell and Lord Rennard.

The election result is now duly confirmed at the conclusion of this AGM and the composition of the new Executive Committee will be posted on the BGIPU website and on the IPU Room door.

Item 9: Speech by BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP

MR SPEAKER:

Now I would like to invite the Chair of the BGIPU, Fabian Hamilton, to take the floor.

FABIAN HAMILTON MP:

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. You will notice that I do not have any notes, so I am speaking entirely from memory. First, I want to thank everybody involved in this AGM. I thank Mr Speaker, who is our

President and who chairs our annual meeting, for being with us at every annual general meeting and making sure that they run absolutely to time and according to the agenda. It is a real honour to have you here.

Thank you to our esteemed Treasurer and former Chair, my predecessor Dame Karen Bradley. I do not know what we would do without you. You are invaluable to every visit and every meeting that we have, and of course in your role as Treasurer at the moment, so thank you so much. Thank you to our proposers and seconders, Chris Elmore and Wendy Morton. You have done a fantastic job, and thank you for the kind compliments.

Everybody has mentioned our staff, and I want to express my gratitude, because I see our staff most days, or certainly every week, and we have regular meetings with Dominique and Rick. I could not wish for better staff. I have done one year in this job now, and I am looking forward to the next two years, because I know that the place is really well run. The delegations that we have had have been so brilliant and efficient thanks to the background work that is done quietly and confidently by our brilliant staff, so a warm thank you to all of them. Please give them a round of applause. *[Applause.]*

Before I conclude, let me say that I have been in this place for 28 years —as long as Mr Speaker, in fact. We came in in 1997; there are not many of us left, Lindsay, but we are still here and still going strong.

MR SPEAKER:

Some of them have been here longer.

FABIAN HAMILTON MP:

I know Sir John has been here a bit longer, and Jeremy, of course, has been here even longer than that. But we are the ’97 generation, who came in with Tony Blair’s Government, and we are still here. Thank you to all of you who have served for so many years.

What I did not know when I started in ’97 was how much of my future career would be dominated by international relations and foreign policy, and I have loved every minute of it. I have to thank Jeremy for putting

me on the Front Bench after 18 and a half years. I was then able to serve for nearly eight years under his leadership and the leadership of the now Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer. They taught me a lot. One of the things that you learn about this place is that you never stop learning—it is sometimes like being at a university.

I want to reflect on something that both Chris Elmore and Wendy Morton said about the importance of diplomacy and inter-parliamentary contact, which the IPU absolutely sums up in everything that it has done for the last 136 years. I have learned, as I learned at university—although probably not enough—every year, every day, every week, every month in this place you learn something new and, more importantly, you meet new people. I think that parliamentary diplomacy, as well as diplomacy and cross-party working, is where we are at our strongest.

That is why it has been the privilege of my life to do this job. I thought—for about one minute—that I might stand a chance of being in Sir Keir's Government, until I realised that that was not going to happen. I have huge praise for people who are in the Government and serve as Ministers, but this is the best job that I have ever had. I love it because of all of you—everybody who is in this room, and everybody who is not in the room, but who supports the IPU and makes it function as it should, and the people who I have met. Rick, you know almost everybody, I think, when we go to those international fora, but I could not have done it without you. The delegations that many of you in this room have led have been absolutely fantastic. Long may that continue.

This is an institution and an organisation that is worth supporting for as long as we live, because it does so much good behind the scenes. In a world that is disintegrating through conflict, superpower jealousy and horrendous competition, we can bring people together. I have found that one of the warmest things is that collaboration across parties—getting to know your colleagues across the party divides as human beings and as representatives, championing the one thing that we are here to do, which is to look after our constituents in a representative democracy. Championing that abroad is what it is all about. Thank you for the confidence that you have placed in me for a second year. I hope to serve a third year, if you have that confidence in me.

Best of all, before I conclude, I want to say a word about Lord Dholakia,

who is not in the room today. Navnit Dholakia has served on the Executive Committee for 15 years, I understand, and he has been a brilliant proponent of that idea of diplomacy and democratic accountability. I am told that at many of our Assemblies, he has approached people whom you would never normally approach and has had really constructive discussions with them. He has never been afraid to approach anybody who perhaps opposes the very idea of democracy, but is none the less there at those annual or biannual Assemblies in Geneva. He has been a great authority and a great ambassador for the IPU, and we are going to miss him a lot. Thank you, Navnit Dholakia, for all the work that you have done.

Thank you to all of you. I will not pick you out one by one, but I will thank Nicole Piché as well, because I chair the all-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group, which is again a huge privilege, and her briefings are absolutely superb. Best of all, thank you to all of you. Keep up the work, keep up the faith, and let us carry on together into the future to make this world a better place for all of us. *[Applause.]*

MR SPEAKER:

Can I just say thanks to all the staff at the BGIPU? You do a great job and, without doubt, we are very lucky to have you all on board. Thanks to everybody who is part of the team and all those who have been elected —please do not give up, especially as Fabian has already started the next elections.

Item 10: Any other business

MR SPEAKER:

May I confirm with the Secretariat that there has been no written notification, in according with the BGIPU rules, of any other matter of business to be raised? Is that correct?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

No notices have been submitted.

Item 11: Closure of meeting

MR SPEAKER:

I now close the meeting.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2025, 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 LordMcFall of Alcluith (The Lord Speaker)

BGIPU President

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP (Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP
Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Dan Carden MP
Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Mary Creagh CBE FCIL MP
Preet Gill MP
Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Kate Osamor MP
Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP
Dame Harriett Baldwin MP
Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
Rt Hon the Lord Hammond of Runnymede
Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidenhead
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 26 November 2025 there have been five Executive Committee meetings in 2026: Tuesday 20 January, Tuesday 17 March, Tuesday 9 June, Tuesday 14 July and Tuesday 27 October.

Meetings of the Audit Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 26 November 2025 there have been two Audit Committee deliberations in 2026: Tuesday 10 March 2026 and Tuesday 23 June 2026

Officers & Executive Committee (As elected 26 November 2025)

Chair:

Fabian Hamilton MP

Vice-Chairs:

Dan Carden MP

Alicia Kearns MP

The Rt Hon Baroness Northover

Treasurer:

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP

Executive Committee:

Labour Party

Phil Brickell MP

Dawn Butler MP

Pam Cox MP

Sharon Hodgson MP

Clive Lewis MP

Jessica Morden MP

Kate Osamor MP

John Slinger MP

Alex Sobel MP

Leigh Ingham MP*

Adam Jogee MP*

The Baroness Blower

The Baroness Curran (until June 2026)

The Lord Dubs

The Baroness Debbonaire*

Conservative Party

Dame Harriett Baldwin DBE MP

Gagan Mohindra MP

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP

The Baroness Hooper CMG

The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate

Liberal Democrats

Wera Hobhouse MP

The Lord Rennard

Scottish National Party

Chris Law MP

Cross Bench

The Lord Cromwell

The Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza CMG PC*

*(Co-opted in 2026)

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.



BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, President-elect of Belarus, at the Meeting of the Alliance of Parliamentary Groups "For a Democratic Belarus" in June 2026.



BGIPU and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute event on women's rights and gender apartheid in Afghanistan, chaired by Wendy Chamberlain MP.



BGIPU Chair, Fabian Hamilton MP, and Jessica Morden MP at the annual BGIPU Pride Event hosted with Amnesty International in the IPU Room in June 2026.



Chair and other members of the BGIPU in Westminster Hall with a delegation from Ukraine in March 2026.



UK Delegation to the Kazakhstan led by Tan Dhesi MP in the Parliament of Kazakhstan in Astana in September 2026.



UK Delegation to the 153rd IPU Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania with delegation leader and Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP in October 2026.



UK Delegation to the IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Belgrade, Serbia in February 2026.



UK Delegation to Lithuania, led by Jessica Morden MP, in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in June 2026.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDANT AUDITORS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement
Year ended 31 March 2026

Kreston Reeves Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
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 worldwide parliamentary dialogue. Following an amendment to the BGIPU Rules in December 2014, all members of both Houses are deemed to be full members of BGIPU with a right to participate in the Group's activities.

Governance of BGIPU is exercised through a maximum 30-member Executive Committee, appointed annually by its membership. The Executive Committee approves and oversees engagement with the principal organs of the IPU, the implementation of a Forward Programme of bilateral activities, and wider inter-parliamentary engagement to advance the parliamentary dimension of the UK's international relations.

The Officers of 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 Executive Committee meetings. All decisions taken by the Officers are reported to the full Executive Committee.

The Honorary Treasurer, as Accounting Officer, is responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of BGIPU's objectives while safeguarding public funds and assets in accordance with the Financial Memorandum (FM). The Director is responsible for the implementation of Executive Committee decisions and the effective day-to-day management of the Secretariat, including financial administration and personnel management.

The Audit Committee, drawn from the Executive Committee, advises the Honorary Treasurer on the adequacy of audit arrangements and risk management processes. It reviews the Risk Register annually and reports to the Executive Committee as required.

The current Financial Memorandum, agreed in June 2024, continues to provide the framework for BGIPU's funding and governance

arrangements during 2025/26. Throughout the year, BGIPU has operated in full accordance with the FM, including requirements relating to business planning, quarterly financial reporting, and adherence to agreed limits on reserves. Administrative, financial and human resource practices continue to align proportionately with those of the House of Commons. BGIPU has continued to operate in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money as reflected in the Financial Memorandum, ensuring regularity, propriety and value for money in the use of public funds.

BGIPU is subject to annual externalaudit. The audited financial statements, explanatory commentary and key issuesmemorandum were presentedto the Audit Committee during 2025/26, including an unqualified external audit opinion for the year and no material control weaknesses identified. The most recent wider audit by parliamentary authorities in 2023 confirmed the robustness of BGIPU's governance arrangements.

Work of the Executive Committee

This statement covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The Executive Committee met five times during the financialyear, on 10 June 2025, 16 July 2025, 28 October 2025, 20 January 2026 and 17 March 2026. The Annual General Meeting took place on 26 November 2025, electing the Executive Committee for 2025/26. The Audit Committee met on 3 July 2025 to reviewand recommend approvalof the final accounts. A further meeting of the reconstituted Audit Committee took place on 10 March 2026, considering the auditors' Letter of Engagement, the updated Risk Register and the 2026 Risk Management Strategy.

During the year, the Executive Committee oversaw implementation of the Strategic Business Plan for 2025/26 to 2027/28, adopted in March 2025. The Director submitted the annual review to funding bodies in September 2025 and prepared forward financial projections to support the 2026/27 funding request. The Executive Committee also approved a ForwardProgramme for 2025/26aligned with BGIPU'sstrategic priorities and responsive to a heightened and evolving geopolitical environment. The Executive Committee maintained close oversight of financial performance throughout the year, ensuring expenditure remained within approved limits and consistent with FM requirements.

Staffing and organisational capacity continued to be carefully managed within a small Secretariat of seven staff. Employment terms and conditions remained aligned with those of the House of Commons. Existing arrangements, including performance appraisal processes and targeted staff development, were maintained and reviewed during the year to support retention and organisational effectiveness.

Risks

BGIPU's approach to risk management is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk entirely. It therefore provides reasonable, not absolute, assurance of effectiveness. Risk management is embedded within organisational processes through Executive Committee oversight, Audit Committee scrutiny and regular staff engagement. The Risk Register was reviewed and updated during 2025/26, most recently in March 2026.

The principal risks identified during the year included:

- delivery risk associated with operating a small Secretariat alongside an expanding and complex international programme;
- reputational risk linked to overseas delegations and external engagement;
- financial risk arisingfrom a flat cash funding settlement and wider parliamentary budgetary pressures.

Mitigation measures include strong programme planning, clear member guidance, robust financial controls and continuous monitoring by the Executive Committee and Audit Committee. No material control failures were identified during the year. Known areas of operational vulnerability, including online transactions and payment processes, continued to be actively managed.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the HonoraryTreasurer has responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of BGIPU's policies, aims and objectives while safeguarding public funds and assets. This responsibility is informed by the work of the ExecutiveCommittee, the Audit Committee, the Director and Secretariat staff, and by external audit outcomes. Based on these

sources of assurance, including an unqualified external audit opinion for the year and the absence of any materialcontrol issues, I am satisfied that BGIPU's governance, risk management and internal control systems operated effectively throughout 2025/26. BGIPU maintained a close and constructive relationship with its funding bodies in both Houses of Parliament, ensuring full compliance with the FM and appropriate transparency in financial and operational matters. Budgetary pressures continued to be managed effectively within a zero-growth funding environment. During 2025/26, BGIPU successfully delivered its programme of inter-parliamentary activity in a challenging international context. Feedback from members, funding partners and key stakeholders, including the IPU Secretariat and the FCDO, indicates that the organisation continues to provide a high-quality and effective service.

BGIPU met its principal programme and governance objectives during the year. It managed its grant in aid in a cost-effective manner, remained within agreed financial limits and generateda modest surplusin line with the parameters set out in the Financial Memorandum to support appropriate reserve levels. I am satisfied that BGIPU has maintained a sound system of internalcontrol which operatedeffectively throughout the financial year.

I am therefore confident that BGIPU's governance arrangements are robust, proportionate and effective, and that the organisation continues to meet fully the expectations of its membership and funding bodies.

(Signed)

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP

Honorary Treasurer 14 July 2026

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 2026 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 2026 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 2026, and of its surplus 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.

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

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 43, 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.

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

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 Audit LLP

Statutory Auditor

Date: 17 July 2026

Income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Income			
Grant in aid		**1,689,598**	1,579,062
Donations / Subscriptions received from members		**21**	31
Interest receivable		**5,420**	6,354
		1,695,039	1,585,447
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		**519,969**	527,620
IPU Assemblies, Conferences and outward delegations		**391,756**	304,371
Inward delegations and Days in Parliament		**71,018**	48,780
All party groups		**1,237**	361
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	3	**525,452**	537,211
Printing, stationery and publications		**2,410**	2,086
IT consumables		**378**	156
Member services and events in the UK		**20,031**	11,388
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		**10,908**	10,338
Insurance		**4,858**	4,874
General hospitality		**689**	439
Other expenses		**1,748**	4,452
Depreciation of fixed assets	5	**2,065**	1,483
		1,552,519	1,453,559
Surplus/ for the year	9	**142,520**	131,888
Opening reserves	9	**652,574**	520,686
Closing reserves	9	**795,094**	652,574

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 2026

	Note		2026		2025
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	5		**8,747**		7,309
Current assets					
Prepayments and accrued income	6	**446,914**		465,719	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	**382,736**		247,106	
		829,650		712,825	
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	**(43,303)**		(67,560)	
Net current assets			**786,347**		645,265
Net assets			**795,094**		652,574
Financed by:					
General fund	9		**795,094**		652,574
			795,094		652,574

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 14 July 2026.

(Signed)

Fabian Hamilton MP
BGIPU Chair

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Honorary Treasurer

Cash flow statement
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	**142,520**	131,888
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	**(5,420)**	(6,354)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	**18,805**	(56,725)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	**(24,257)**	(276,406)
Depreciation charge	**2,065**	1,483
Purchase of fixed assets	**(3,503)**	(2,261)
Net cash flow from operating activities	**130,210**	(208,375)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	**5,420**	6,354
Net cash flow from investing activities	**5,420**	6,354
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**135,630**	(202,021)
Cash at the beginning of the year	**247,106**	449,127
Cash at bank and in hand at the end of the year	**382,736**	247,106

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

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 39.

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 assests 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

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 2026 of £1,689,598 (2025: £1,579,062) 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 average number of employees of the BGIPU during the year was 7 (2025: 7).

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

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**388,737**	402,488
Social security costs	**54,133**	46,087
Pension costs	**55,013**	55,952
Other costs	**27,569**	32,684
	525,452	537,211

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	32,216	36,790
Additions	-	-	-	3,503	3,503
Disposals	-	-	-	(15,122)	(15,122)
At end of year	**3,183**	**890**	**501**	**20,597**	**25,171**
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	458	29,023	29,481
Charge for year	-	-	19	2,046	2,065
Disposals	-	-	-	(15,122)	(15,122)
At end of year	**-**	**-**	**477**	**15,947**	**16,424**
Net book value					
At 31 March 2026	**3,183**	**890**	**24**	**4,650**	**8,747**
At 31 March 2025	3,183	890	43	3,193	7,309

6 Debtors: amount receivable within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Prepayments	**446,914**	465,719
	446,914	465,719

7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2026 £	2025 £
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	**370,907**	235,649
Non-interest earning bank current account	**10,000**	10,000
Cash in hand	**1,829**	1,457
	382,736	247,106

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	**8,842**	23,894
Accruals and deferred income	**14,169**	19,110
Social security and other taxes	**16,849**	15,127
Other creditors	**3,443**	9,429
	43,303	67,560

9 Reserves

General fund

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

	General Fund £
Balance at 31 March 2025	652,574
Surplus for the year	142,520
Balance at 31 March 2026	**795,094**

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 £55,013 (2025: £55,952). At the year end, £4,582 (2025: £4,403) remained unpaid, included within creditors (note 8).

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 £9,579 (2025: £14,430). At the year-end, £1,063 (2025: £Nil) was outstanding, included within creditors (note 8).

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	
President:		
Mr. M. Dick (Australia)	October	2029
Vice-President:		
Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland)	October	2027
Members:		
Ms I. K. Godalena (DRC)	March	2027
Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan)	October	2027
Ms. N.B. Mutti (Zambia)	October	2027
Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia)	October	2027
Mr. M. Dick (Australia)	October	2027
Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil)	October	2027
Mr. G.O. Akpabio (Nigeria)	October	2027
Ms. H. B. H. Al-Sulaiti (Qatar)	March	2029
Mr. H. A. Gueddi (Djibouti)	October	2029
Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium)	October	2029
Ms. K. Bradley (United Kingdom)	October	2029
Mr. G. Almeland (Norway)	October	2030
Ms. J. A. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	October	2030
Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) Ex Officio	March	2027
Mrs. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) Ex Officio	March	2027

Liaison with the International Secretariat

The BGIPU Secretariat maintained regular and constructive contact with the IPU Secretariat in Geneva throughout 2025-26 on a wide range of organisational, procedural and policy matters. Cooperation was particularly close during a period of significant transition for the IPU, including the election of a new Secretary General in April, adoption of the IPU Strategy for 2027-2031, and election of a new President in October.

Close cooperation was maintained at the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul from 15 to 19 April and the 153rd Assembly in Arusha from 5 to 9 October, as well as at the IPU/UN Parliamentary Hearing in New York on 12 and 13 February, IPU Executive Committee meetings in Geneva in June, and the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Samarkand from 4 to 6 September.

A particular highlight was the visit to Westminster on 9 September by the newly elected IPU Secretary General, Anda Filip, and outgoing President, Dr Tulia Ackson. Their programme included meetings with the Speaker of the House of Commons, BGIPU Officers and Members, attendance at Prime Minister's Questions and discussions on parliamentary cooperation and emerging challenges, including artificial intelligence. The Secretary General also visited the BGIPU Secretariat on 10 September. The British Group continues to enjoy excellent relations with the IPU leadership and Secretariat and looks forward to strengthening cooperation under President Milton Dick and Secretary General Anda Filip.

Ms Anda Filip
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Website: www.ipu.org
Twitter: @IPUparliament

National Groups of the IPU

As of November 2026 there are 184 Members and 14 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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

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

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 2025 to November 2026

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 Netherlands

Assistance totalling £446.93 was provided to the Netherlands APPG for lunch with members of the APPG and Mr Van Campen, President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands in the Chess Room in January 2026.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BRITISH GROUP IPU

	Position	Commenced
Mr Rick Nimmo	Director	May 2012
Ms Dominique Rees	Deputy Director	April 1998
Ms Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison	Finance & Administration Manager	July 2008
Ms Rhiannon Edwards	Multilateral Programme Manager	September 2016
Mr Henry Collison	International Project Manager	June 2023
Ms Chiara De Vita	International Project Manager	September 2025
Ms Magdalene El Beleidi	International Project Manager	July 2026

STAFF MOVEMENTS

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

	Position	Left Employment
Mr Joe Perry	International Project Manager	June 2026



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