



ACCA Guide to Parliament

All Party Groups (APGs)

Context

APGs provide a relatively informal opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. They also allow others involved in the field, such as campaign groups, charities and other non-governmental organisations to become involved in discussions and influence politicians and other high-level stakeholders, by attending meetings, acting as speakers, or sponsoring and acting as secretariat to a group.

All Party Groups

There are two types of All Party Groups; Associate Party Groups and All Party Parliamentary Groups. The difference between the two is that, although both types of Group can have external members, only with Associate Groups do the external members have voting rights. With All Party Groups, only Members of the House of Commons or Lords have voting rights

Groups are classified either as subject groups (relating to a particular topic) or country groups (relating to a particular country or region). There are approximately 500 groups, including groups on business finance and accountancy, corporate governance and small business.

Membership of these groups is drawn from backbench MPs and Peers of all political parties in the House.

APGs do not have a formal place in the legislature, but are an effective way of bringing together parliamentarians and interested parties. They can act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the Opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

APGs have MPs or Lords as officers drawn from across the major political parties and strive to avoid favouring one political party or another.

Inevitably, the groups tend to focus most on the governing party's priorities, discussing new developments and inviting Government Ministers to speak at their

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meetings.

Often a relevant charity, trade body or other interest group will provide a secretariat for the Group, helping to arrange meetings and keeping track of members of the APPG.

ACCA's involvement

ACCA acts as secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Small Business Group (APPSBG), chaired by Andy Love MP. The aim of this group is to act as a bridge between politicians and small businesses.

The APPSBG consults and runs inquiries on specific areas of policy relating to SMEs and disseminates the results through reports, briefing papers and meetings. Issues are raised and opinions sought through public hearings, written submissions, research and web-based consultation.

The APPSBG holds breakfast meetings once every two months, featuring high-profile speakers, MPs and experts discussing issues affecting SMEs.

We engage with APGs, and in particular with the APPSBG in order to:

- Raise ACCA's profile
- Inform and engage with influential MPs
- Influence the development of legislation and public policy
- Represent ACCA's members, 59% of whom work for, or advise SMEs in Parliament

PAMR

ACCA's Public Affairs and Media Relations (PAMR) department is based in the UK, co-ordinating with colleagues in local offices. We also have an office in Brussels and a permanent staff member in Ukraine, focussed on Central and Eastern Europe.

The PAMR team aims to ensure that the views of our global membership are reflected in the world's media, and that issues of concern to finance professionals and the wider business community are raised with governments and regulators in order to protect and enhance ACCA's reputation and to increase our influence.

The Public Affairs team exists to protect and enhance the reputation of ACCA with government, policy advisers, key civil servants and other political and business stakeholders. It aims to build positive relationships with key decision makers, and to influence and inform legislation and policy ensuring the best possible outcomes for ACCA's work. We lead on all engagement with Parliament, monitoring Parliamentary activity and providing advice to colleagues.

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The Media Relations team works to provide timely and useful comment to the world's media on key issues affecting not only the accounting profession, but business and personal finances. Our global network of offices engaged in communications ensures that every day of the year ACCA is offering wide ranging responsible advice or commentary on key issues on every continent.

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