

## PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

### Executive summary

1. The Corporate Body is invited to consider forthcoming overseas parliamentary travel and, in accordance Section 2, paragraph 62 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc., approve the details of the travel and other costs associated with the outward visit below.
2. As the SPCB is aware, advance approval for travel on parliamentary business is not regarded as a registrable interest under the terms of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

### Issues and Options

#### Arctic Circle

3. Gillian Martin MSP, Convener, and Finlay Carson, Member, of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee will attend the annual plenary of the Arctic Circle which will take place in Reykjavik from 10-13 October 2019.
4. The Arctic Circle is:  
  
‘the largest network of international dialogue and cooperation on the future of the Arctic. It is an open democratic platform with participation from governments, organizations, corporations, universities, think tanks, environmental associations, indigenous communities, concerned citizens, and others interested in the development of the Arctic and its consequences’.
5. The International Relations Office, in its six-monthly report on international work to the SPCB, has provided information around the Parliament’s recent involvement with the Arctic Circle. To build on its participation in last year’s plenary, this year the Committee Members will host a breakout session on *Climate Change, Climate Justice and Human Rights: A Scottish Perspective*. This will involve both Members and two external academics (both technical experts in this area (climate justice and environmental law) and will be a mixture of presentation and discussion with the audience on how Scotland is working to achieve transformational change across all sectors, including transport, energy and agriculture and how Scotland can move towards a low-carbon, inclusive economy and examine the opportunities this offers to promote and safeguard citizens’ environmental human rights. The Scottish delegation will explore the potential for shared learning and consider how the Scottish experience, in particular the Parliament’s scrutiny of climate change legislation, could be applied more broadly to Arctic Circle countries.
6. Consideration is now being given to the conference programme to identify other breakout and Plenary sessions which the delegation will attend as well as bilateral

discussions which will be arranged with other parliamentarians, NGOs, academics etc. Participation by the delegation will feed directly back to the Committee's work programme.

7. The costs below relate to travel, accommodation, conference registration fee and incidental costs (meals) for the two MSPs, one academic (IRO will pay accommodation costs in relation to the period of time Professor Morgera will attend around the breakout session), one SPICe researcher, and one IRO staff member.

### **Resource Implications**

8. The estimated costs for the above visits are set out below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Approx. costs</b>
10-13 Oct. 2019	Arctic Circle	Reykjavik, Iceland	Gillian Martin MSP Finlay Carson MSP Professor Elisa Morgera, University of Strathclyde (Charlotte Hartley, Just Transition Commission will participate in the breakout session via Skype) International Relations Officer Senior Researcher, SPICe	£7,500

### **Publication Scheme**

9. This paper will be published as part of the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

### **Decision**

10. The Corporate Body is invited to consider the above travel and, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc., approve the details of the travel and note the associated costs as set out.

### **International Relations Office**

26 September 2019