

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

Executive summary

1. The Corporate Body is invited to note forthcoming overseas parliamentary travel and, in accordance with paragraphs 2.5.4 and 2.5.6 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 both visits.

Issues and Options

2. The two outward visits are:
 - The Presiding Officer will visit Brussels on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October. He will have meetings with the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament and the President of the Federal House of Representatives.
 - Kate Forbes MSP will represent the Scottish Parliament at the CPA Youth Parliament in Victoria, British Columbia. Ms Forbes will mentor a group of 8 young people from across the Commonwealth.
3. As the SPCB is aware, advance approval for such visits means that travel on parliamentary business is not regarded as a registrable interest under the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Resource Implications

4. The estimated costs are set out below:

Date	Description	Destination	Participants	Approx. costs
20-21 October 2016	Meetings with Speaker of the Flemish Parliament and the President of the House of Representatives	Brussels, Belgium	Presiding Officer	£300
6-10 November 2016	Participation in CPA Youth Parliament	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	Kate Forbes MSP	£2,765

5. The costs for travel to Brussels will be met from the IRO budget. The costs for travel to British Columbia will also be met from the IRO budget. The CPA Secretariat and the CPA British Columbia Branch will pay for accommodation and meals.

Publication Scheme

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

Decision

7. The Corporate Body is invited to note the above travel and, in accordance with paragraphs 2.5.4 and 2.5.6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, provisionally approve the details of the travel and the associated costs as set out.

International Relations Office

20 September 2016