SPCB(2014) Paper 9
26 February 2014

REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES SCHEME – ADDITIONAL EXPENSES APPLICATION

Executive Summary

1. The SPCB is invited to consider an application under Section 7 paragraph 7.1.1 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme for additional funds to meet the cost of hiring British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters.

Issues and Options

2. Provision is made in the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme for a Member to apply to the SPCB for additional funds to meet the costs incurred in respect of engaging a sign language interpreter who is required for a meeting with members of the public.

3. The Allowances Office has received a retrospective application for additional funds from a Member who was required to engage the services of BSL interpreters at a meeting held in his region to discuss the impact of the so-called Bedroom Tax.

4. The Member received a request from Deaf Connections that BSL interpreter services be provided at the meeting as a group of their service users would be attending. Due to the format of the meeting it was suggested that it would be best if two interpreters were used. This request was received on the Friday, with the meeting being scheduled for the following Monday. Due to the short notice, it was not possible to receive prior approval as required by the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme.

5. The cost of hiring the interpreters was £348.48. Their services were required for a period of slightly less than three hours at an hourly rate of £43 for the first two hours and £37 per hour thereafter together with travel costs of £62.40 plus VAT.

6. Officials have delegated authority to approve applications for such funds up to a limit of £200 per application. All applications for sums in excess of this amount require to be determined by the SPCB.

Resource Implications

6 The additional funds required would be £348.48 and it is confirmed that there are sufficient funds in the overall expenses budget to meet these costs.

Governance

7. Provision is made in the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to meet these costs.

Publication

8. This paper can be published in line with the SPCB's publication scheme.

Next steps

9. To inform the Member of the decision.

Decision

10. The SPCB is invited to consider the application to meet the costs under the Additional Expenses Provision.

Allowances Office
February 2014