

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

Executive summary

1. The Corporate Body is invited to note parliamentary travel overseas and, in accordance with Volume 2, Section 2.4 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve the details of the travel and other costs associated with it.
2. This paper outlines a range of parliamentary travel relating to attendance at the 25th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Tanzania; the 11th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar in Ottawa; and for a Presiding Officer led delegation to meet with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy led Network Board of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans, in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Issues and Options

3. The purpose of each of the delegations is outlined below and the attached table at Annex A provides further detail on the travel involved.
4. Advance approval by the Corporate Body for any visit programme means that 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.

25th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar, Tanzania

5. The CPA Scotland Branch has selected Kenneth Gibson MSP to attend, subject to the agreement of the SPCB, the 25th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar. The seminar will take place from 25 to 31 May 2014, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

11th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar, Ottawa

6. The CPA Scotland Branch has selected Margaret McDougall MSP to attend, subject to the agreement of the SPCB, the 11th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar which will take place from Sunday 1 June to Saturday 7 June in Ottawa. Attendance at the seminar is jointly funded by the CPA Scotland Branch who will pay for the cost of travel, and associated expenses, from Scotland to Ottawa. CPA Canada Branch will pay for the cost of accommodation and meals for the duration of the conference.

Scottish Parliament Delegation to Montenegro

7. The Presiding Officer has been invited to meet with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) led Network Board of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans. It is also intended that the Presiding Officer will meet with the Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro. The delegation which will consist of the Presiding Officer, Rt Hon Tricia Marwick MSP, the Clerk / Chief Executive, and one other official. The delegation will travel to Montenegro on Sunday 15 June, undertake one day of meetings on 16 June and return to Scotland on Tuesday 17 June.

Resource Implications

8. The estimated cost of attendance at the seminar in Tanzania is £3,500.
9. The cost of attendance at the seminar in Ottawa is co-funded between the CPA Scotland Branch and the CPA Canadian Branch. The estimated cost of attendance to the SPCB is estimated to be £2,780.
10. The cost of the outward delegation to Montenegro is estimated to be £3,800.

Publication Scheme

11. This paper will be published as part of the SPCB's Publication Scheme. It is suggested that this paper is not published until all the activities detailed have taken place.

Decision

12. The Corporate Body is invited:
 - To agree the parliamentary travel relating to the 25th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Tanzania; the 11th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar; and the travel by a Presiding Officer led delegation to Montenegro.
 - In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc., to approve the details of the travel and the associated costs as set out in the paper.
 - To agree that this paper is not published until the activities detailed have taken place.

**UK and International Relations Office
February 2014**

Annex A

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	APPROX. COSTS TO SPCB
25 – 31 May	Kenneth Gibson MSP attending the 25 th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The seminar will cover a wide range of topics which are intended to provide the opportunity for exchange of experiences between Parliamentarians and enhance awareness of Parliamentary democracies.	9 days (including travel)	Dar es Salaam (via Dubai)	Kenneth Gibson MSP	£3,500
1 – 7 June	Margaret McDougall MSP attending the 11 CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar in Ottawa. The theme for the seminar is 'Strengthening Democracy and the Role of Parliamentarians: Challenges and Solutions'. The seminar is intended to complement professional development programmes for parliamentarians and act as a tool for sharing best practices between Commonwealth Parliamentarians.	8 days (including travel)	Ottawa, Canada	Margaret McDougall MSP	£2,780
15 – 17 June	The Presiding Officer and two officials to meet with the WFD led Network Board of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans. The visit will act as a means of symbolising the commitment of the Scottish Parliament to working with the WFD led network.	3 days (including travel)	Podgorica, Montenegro	Rt Hon Tricia Marwick MSP, plus Clerk / Chief Executive and one official	£3,800