

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

Executive summary

1. This paper details the participation of two Members at overseas conferences. The participation at these conferences was conducted under the auspices of the CPA Scotland Branch. The cost of participation at both conferences was borne by external organisations. However, incidental costs resulted from participation at both conferences which the external organisation did not cover, and are now required to be paid for from the SPCB budget. These incidental costs were submitted upon the return of the Members from the conferences. Accordingly, this paper provides details retrospectively of the participation at these two conferences.
2. The Corporate Body is invited to note parliamentary travel overseas and, in accordance with paragraph 2.7.2 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament¹, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve the details of the travel and other costs associated with it.

Issues and Options

3. The attached Annex to this paper provides details of the attendance and participation of Sarah Boyack MSP and David Stewart MSP at conferences in Bangladesh and Johannesburg respectively. Feedback from both conferences has been very positive.
4. The invitations for Members to speak at these conferences were received in January 2012. Both these invitations were considered and approved by the CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee. Members, with relevant experience to the topic on which a presentation was required, were asked to apply citing their reasons for attendance at the respective conferences. The applications were considered by the CPA Scotland Branch Members and applicants were selected and approved by the CPA Scotland Branch.
5. Travel and accommodation were paid for by the legislatures in partnership with other international agencies. However, incidental costs, totalling £338, have arisen from participation at both conferences which are being borne by the SPCB budget.

¹ As required by Section 2.7 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament in force from 3 May 2007.

Resource Implications

6. The costs of flights and accommodation for David Stewart MSP's attendance at the conference in Johannesburg, organised by the Gauteng Provincial Parliament (GPL), were met by the GPL and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The incidental costs, accruing to the SPCB budget, from participation at the conference are £238 (consisting of £158.80 for car travel from Inverness to Edinburgh and £79.08 for a late check-out and food at the hotel in South Africa due to the flight from South Africa leaving late at night).
7. The costs for Sarah Boyack MSP to attend the conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh were met by the Bangladesh Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme. The incidental costs, accruing to the SPCB budget, from participation at the conference are £51.35. This sum accrues from £3.56 for a taxi home from Edinburgh Waverley, £12 for an Edinburgh to Glasgow train, £19.80 for a taxi to Glasgow Airport, and lastly, £15.70 for food costs and transport in Dhaka.
8. The unanticipated costs relate mainly to travel to and from the airports in Scotland. These costs and further details regarding the conferences are detailed in the Annex attached.

Publication Scheme

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

Decision

10. The Corporate Body is invited:
 - to note the attached table detailing the visits on behalf of the Parliament; and
 - in accordance with paragraph 2.7.2 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve, retrospectively, the details of the travel and other costs associated with the visits set out in the Annex.

Margaret Neal
Secretary to the CPA Scotland Branch
United Kingdom and International Relations Office
20 April 2012

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	COSTS TO SPCB
29 February to 2 March 2012	David Stewart MSP visited Johannesburg from at the invitation of the Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Parliament (GPL) to deliver a presentation at a Public Participation conference entitled "The People Shall Govern: Public Participation Beyond Slogans" organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the GPL. The audience consisted of around 300 predominately African parliamentarians and top level country directors from international organisations. David Stewart's presentation focussed on the Scottish Parliament's model for dealing with Public Petitions. Outcomes from the Conference included the publication of a Book Chapter which will be widely disseminated throughout South Africa and beyond. The publication will include written briefs and PowerPoint presentations from all key speakers, including David Stewart.	2 days David Stewart departed on 2 March	Johannesburg	David Stewart MSP	Total £237.88 Car Travel from Inverness to Edinburgh - £158.80. Late check-out and food at the hotel in South Africa - £79.08.
VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	COSTS TO SPCB
14-16 March 2012	Sarah Boyack MSP visited Dhaka, Bangladesh, at the invitation of the Speaker, to attend a Meeting of Parliamentarians of Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change: Beyond Durban. Sarah Boyack delivered a presentation to an audience of around 300 international delegates. Over 30 countries	3 days	Dhaka	Sarah Boyack MSP	£51.35 Taxi from home to Edinburgh Waverley - £3.85 Train from Edinburgh to

	from across 5 continents were represented at the Conference. The Conference was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme and the Parliament of Bangladesh.				Glasgow – £12 Food and transport costs in Dhaka - £15.70 Taxi from Glasgow Airport - £19.80
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