

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

Executive summary

1. The Corporate Body is invited to note forthcoming 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

50th CPA Canadian Regional Conference

2. Alison McInnes MSP has applied successfully to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canada Branch 50th Regional Conference, in Québec, from 15-21 July 2012.
3. Ms McInnes will be a member of the six-strong British Islands and Mediterranean Region delegation attending this Conference.
4. No parliamentary staff are accompanying the MSP on this outward visit.
5. The SPCB is asked to note that all costs associated with the visit to Québec will be met from existing budgets. An estimate of costs is included in the attached Annex.

58th Commonwealth Plenary Conference, Sri Lanka

6. The CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee will also select two Members before the Summer Recess, to attend the Commonwealth Plenary Conference which will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 10-15 September 2012. There will be one 'delegate' and one 'observer'.
7. The CPA Scotland Branch Secretary, Margaret Neal, will accompany the delegation and will provide secretariat support to the delegations from Northern Ireland and Wales as well as Scotland.
8. The SPCB is asked to note that all in-country travel, accommodation and food costs for the delegate and the CPA Scotland Branch Secretary will be paid for by the Sri Lanka Parliament, however there will be a charge of \$US3,000 (£1,909) to cover the costs of food and accommodation for the observer. Given that the delegation has not yet been selected the costs provided in the attached Annex are indicative.

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

9. As the Corporate Body will know, advance approval for any such 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.

Resource Implications

10. There are cost implications for the SPCB in terms of travel, accommodation and food costs for both visits. The costs will be met from existing budgets.
11. A breakdown of costs is contained within the attached Annex. The overall estimated costs for the Canada visit are £3,125 and £8,185 for the Sri Lanka visit. Please note that given the final programme for Canada has not yet been received and that the delegation for Sri Lanka has not yet been selected, these costs are estimated. Final costs will be published following the completion of each visit.

Publication Scheme

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

Decision

13. The Corporate Body is invited:
- 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 the details of the travel and the associated costs as set out in the paper.

**UK and International Relations Office
June 2012**

Annex

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	COSTS TO SPCB
15-21 July 2012	<p>Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly of Québec, has invited six observers from the British Islands and Mediterranean Region to take part in the 50th CPA Canadian Regional Conference from 15 July to 21 July. The Québec Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will host the conference.</p> <p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-parliamentary relations and the promotion of human rights; • The impact of conventional and social media on parliamentary government and the role of parliamentarians; and • The participation of Aboriginal peoples in political and parliamentary life. <p>A meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), Canada Region, will also take place during the conference and Ms McInnes has indicated that she will attend.</p>	5 days	Québec	Alison McInnes MSP	Travel: £1,675 Fees: £ 250 Accom. £1,200 Total est. £3,125

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	COSTS TO SPCB
10-15 Sept 2012	<p>The CPA Sri Lanka Branch will host the 58th Commonwealth Plenary Conference from Monday 10 September to Saturday 15 September 2012.</p> <p>The CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee has agreed that the Branch should send one delegate to this conference and one observer. The conference will be attended by around 350 delegates from across the Commonwealth. The Branch secretary will provide secretariat support to the Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales Branch delegations.</p> <p>The theme of the conference is <i>Ensuring a Relevant Commonwealth for the Future</i>.</p>	5 days	Colombo, Sri Lanka	To be confirmed	Travel: £6,088 Fees: £1,909 Visas: £ 38 Expenses: £ 150 Total est. £8,185*

* These costs are subject to flight availability at prices quoted as at 18 June 2012