

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

2. The Presiding Officer, Tricia Marwick MSP, has been invited by the Ceann Comhairle of the Parliament of the Republic of Ireland, Sean Barrett T.D., to visit the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Presiding Officer will be accompanied by two officials. They are Paul Grice, Clerk / Chief Executive, and Stephen Herbert, Head of the UK and International Relations Office.
3. The final details of the visit are being finalised however it is expected that the visit will involve one full day of meetings, in the Houses of the Oireachtas, on 29 November 2012. It is also anticipated that the Houses of the Oireachtas will meet the costs of accommodation for the Presiding Office during the visit.
4. The SPCB is asked to note that all costs associated with the visit will be met from within existing budgets. An estimate of costs is detailed at Annex A.
5. 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

6. There are cost implications for the SPCB in terms of travel and expenses associated with the visits. The costs will be met from existing budgets.
7. A breakdown of costs is detailed at Annex A. The overall estimated costs for the visit are £260. Please note that given the final programme for the visit has not yet been finalised that these costs are estimated. Final costs will be published following the completion of the visit.

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

Publication Scheme

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

Decision

9. 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
October 2012**

Annex A

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANT	COSTS TO SPCB
28-29 November 2012	<p>Visit to the House of Oireachtas at the invitation of the Ceann Comhairle, Sean Barrett T.D.</p> <p>The objectives for the visit are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss measures being taken to reform Parliamentary services in the Dail Eireann in response to the financial crisis and to look at the strategic approach being taken by the Dail Eireann to deal with longer-term financial constraints; • To discuss how the Dail Eireann is providing continuous professional development for TD's and communicate the experiences of both parliaments following the considerable turnover of Members at recent elections; • To discuss measures, taken within the Dail Eireann, to support the digital delivery of Parliamentary services, including the use of IT to support TD's in their parliamentary duties. • To discuss the process of Parliamentary reform within both the Oireachtas and the Scottish Parliament, with a particular focus 	1 ½ days	Dublin, Republic of Ireland	The Presiding Officer + 2 officials	Return flight to Dublin* - £175 Airport transfers - £35 Miscellaneous Expenses - £50 Total - £260

	<p>on the Committees of both institutions and the processes in place to ensure that Parliamentary Committee's hold the Government to account; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity, for the Presiding Officer, to highlight the historic links between Ireland and Scotland on the eve of St Andrew's Day. 				
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* These costs are subject to flight availability at prices quoted at the time of writing.