

## **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 Parliament<sup>1</sup>, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve the details of the travel and other costs associated with it.
2. The SPCB is asked to approve that the Scottish Parliament should send a delegation to attend a workshop in Belgrade in January 2013 and, if approved, agree the selection procedure for the delegation. The SPCB is also asked to note that the Parliament of Serbia intends to send a delegation to the Scottish Parliament in February 2013.

### **Issues and Options**

3. The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) has approached the Scottish Parliament seeking a delegation to participate in a workshop with the Members from the Parliament of Serbia. The workshop would take place in Belgrade, lasting for a day to a day and a half, between 16 and 18 January 2013. Members will be aware that WFD is seeking the co-operation of the Scottish Parliament in a range of activities in the Western Balkans with a view to agreeing a wider partnership approach to parliamentary strengthening activities in the Western Balkans during 2013. This proposal forms part of that process.
4. WFD has initially advised that the Scottish Parliament delegation should consist of three MSP's and two to three officials. Members may wish to note that travel to and from Belgrade is likely to involve four flights in total involving a change of flights at a major European hub airport on both the outward and return flights. In addition, the Parliament of Serbia wishes to send a delegation to the Scottish Parliament to follow-up on the issues raised in the workshop in Belgrade. This delegation is likely to visit during the week beginning 4 February 2013.
5. Discussions are currently on-going regarding the content of the proposed workshop in Belgrade however it is likely to be primarily focussed on the support provided to Members by the Scottish Parliamentary Service, and communication with citizens. The workshop may also cover the Scottish Parliament electoral system and the Scottish Parliament's oversight and scrutiny functions.

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

6. Given the broad scope of the workshop and the wide range of experience of SPCB Members, it is proposed that a delegation in this instance be comprised of members of the SPCB. If it is not considered that this approach is appropriate then members are asked to propose MSP's who could comprise the delegation.

### **Resource Implications**

7. There are no direct cost implications for the SPCB in terms of travel, accommodation and food costs for the workshop in Belgrade as these costs will be met by WFD. There may be some cost to the SPCB budget arising from the cost of transfers, for the delegation, to airports within Scotland and miscellaneous expenses associated with travel. It is estimated that these costs will not exceed £1,000 in total.

### **Publication Scheme**

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

### **Decision**

9. The Corporate Body is invited:
  - To agree that a Scottish Parliament delegation, consisting of three MSP's and two / three officials, be sent to Belgrade to attend the WFD workshop from 16 to 18 January 2013.
  - To agree the selection of Members to comprise the delegation, as set out in the paper.
  - 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.
  - To note that a delegation from the Parliament of Serbia is likely to visit the Scottish Parliament in February 2013.

**UK and International Relations Office  
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