

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 attached table at Annex A provides details of two visits expected in the next six months. 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. The costs shown also include those incurred by any parliamentary staff, if accompanying Members.

Resource Implications

3. The costs for the visit to India will be met from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) budget, which is allocated annually by the SPCB to the UK & International Relations Office (UKIRO) and agreed in a forward resources plan with the CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee. The costs for the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) delegation comes from a dedicated budget, allocated annually to UKIRO, for those purposes.

Publication Scheme

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

Decision

5. The Corporate Body is invited:
 - to note the attached table at Annex A detailing the visits on behalf of the Parliament; and

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

- 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 other costs associated with the visits set out in the Annex.

UK & International Relations Office
10 November 2011

Annex A

VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	APPROX. COSTS TO SPCB
24 - 29 November 2011	<p>22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar. The overall aim is to facilitate the dissemination of ideas on Parliamentary practice and procedure in its varied Commonwealth forms and assist Members to refine and expand their notions of good governance. It is primarily aimed at new Members of Parliaments and runs for 4 days.</p> <p>As Ms McDougall is also a Member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee it is also hoped that attendance at this conference will help to inform the committee's inquiry into parliamentary reform.</p>	6 days (inclusive of 2 days travel)	New Delhi, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margaret McDougall MSP 	£1,000
VISIT DATE	DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES	TIME	DESTINATION	PARTICIPANTS	APPROX. COSTS TO SPCB
22 -24 April 2012	The 44 th Plenary Session of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA).	3 days (inclusive of travel)	Dublin, Ireland	<p>BIPA Members (or alternate Members if not available)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Scott MSP (delegation leader) • Willie Coffey MSP ▪ Alison McInnes MSP ▪ Michael McMahon MSP ▪ Mary Scanlon MSP ▪ One official 	£3,000