



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Travel Provision Application 12 December 2024 Reference: SPCB (2024) Paper 78

Executive summary

1. The SPCB is invited to consider an application from the Labour Parliamentary Group to have travel costs incurred from attendance at a Group Awayday in Stirling to be met from the Reimbursement of the Members' Expenses Scheme.
2. The Scheme Guidance in paragraph 1.10, provides for such costs to be met with prior approval from the SPCB in relation to Members attending a party group meeting outwith Edinburgh and in any other place in Scotland. Group meetings in Edinburgh do not need prior approval from the SPCB.

Issues and options

3. An application has been received from the Labour Party Group to the SPCB for the cost of Labour Group members travel to be met from the Travel Provision relating to the Group Awayday in Stirling on Friday 31st January 2025.
4. The Group propose to meet venue costs for the awayday from within their short money allocation.
5. It has been confirmed that all 22 Labour MSPs are expected to attend, the agenda is entirely focused on the work of the Scottish Parliament Labour

Group. 10 Resource Unit Staff will also attend to support Members though their travel costs will be met from Labour short money.

6. The SPCB is invited to consider this application based on the information provided. As the scheme makes provision for such costs, it is recommended that the SPCB agree to meet the costs of the travel.

Governance

7. There are no governance issues as the Scheme provides for Members travel and applying to the SPCB for the costs to be met from the Scheme.

Resource implications

8. Should the SPCB determine that the costs should be met it is confirmed that there are sufficient funds available within the overall Members budget for 2024-25.

Publication Scheme

9. This paper can be published in accordance with the SPCB's publication scheme.

Next steps

10. Advise the Group of the SPCB's decision, and if the SPCB agree the travel costs can be met from the Scheme then process any claims submitted through MyExpenses.

Decision

11. The SPCB is invited to consider an application on behalf of the Labour Group for the cost of travel to be met from the Members' Expenses Scheme for the attendance at the Labour Parliamentary Group Awayday in Stirling on Friday 31st January 2025.

Allowances Office

December 2024