



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – SPCB Policy on Members' parliamentary funded communications 20 February 2025 Reference: SPCB (2025) Paper 10

Executive summary

1. The SPCB is invited to consider whether it wishes to take any action in relation to a complaint received regarding Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, in issuing a publication which does not meet the requirements of the SPCB's policy on Members' parliamentary funded communications.

Issues and options

2. Under the SPCB's policy on Members' communications any parliamentary funded publication must meet the requirements set out in the policy. It is the Members' responsibility to ensure the requirements are met, although they can seek guidance from the Allowances Office on their publications.
3. The requirements that are relevant in this case include the requirement to have a header at the top of a publication, which contains the parliament identity, the Members' name and their electoral area in full. Publications must also contain statements about the cost of the publication and the use of external websites as appropriate.
4. The complaint is in relation to Ms Duncan-Glancy issuing an advert on X (Twitter) to promote an upcoming surgery. Though the advert includes a header, the Corporate Identity is not correctly used within it as it does not feature in either purple or black, and is instead red and the full 'Member of the Scottish Parliament for' is missing. Further to this the advert does not include any statement on the cost of the publication or the use of external websites. As SPCB is aware the Allowances Office is happy to review and provide advice on Members' communications, however no advice was sought in this instance.

5. As the advert was issued digitally the only cost that could be associated with this communication would be costs for staff time.
6. Ms Duncan-Glancy has acknowledged the error made in issuing the publication and apologised for this oversight. Her office was reminded at that point to review any other adverts / templates and updated these where necessary to comply with the communications policy.
7. We would recommend to the SPCB that the Head of Allowances write to Ms Duncan-Glancy reminding her of the rules on behalf of the SPCB and that no further action is taken in relation to this matter.

Governance

8. Under the SPCB's policy on Members' parliamentary funded communications the SPCB can take action in relation to any breach of the policy.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications linked to this paper.

Publication Scheme

10. The paper can be published in line with the SPCB publication policy.

Next steps

11. The Member will be advised of the outcome following SPCB consideration of the matter and if SPCB agree, reminded of the rules regarding the Members' parliamentary funded communications policy by the Head of Allowances on their behalf.
12. The Head of Allowances will also respond to the complainer to advise on the outcome of their complaint.

Decision

13. The SPCB is invited to agree that—
 - The Head of Allowances writes to remind Ms Duncan-Glancy of the requirements of the Members' parliamentary funded communications policy on their behalf and advise the complainant of the outcome of the matter.

Allowances Office
20 February 2025