PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS) (SCOTLAND) BILL

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

(AND PRESIDING OFFICER’S STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE)

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION

1. This document relates to the Proportional Representation (Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Bill introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 26 June 2002. It has been prepared by Tricia Marwick, who is the member in charge of the Bill, to satisfy Rule 9.3.2 of the Parliament’s Standing Orders. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Parliament.

COSTS ON THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

2. The Bill is not expected to result in significant additional costs on the Scottish Executive.

3. In terms of the Bill, the Local Government Boundary Commission will require to make recommendations in relation to the new electoral wards. The Local Government Boundary Commission is funded by the Scottish Executive. The Commission is already scheduled to conduct a review of electoral arrangements in 2004. Any additional expense will therefore be minimised.

4. The Bill will give rise to a need for a nationwide advertising campaign to explain the new system. Such a campaign would involve press and TV advertising and significant costs are therefore likely to be involved, although these cannot be precisely estimated at present. Such a campaign would probably take place in conjunction with a campaign on electoral awareness, which is likely to take place even if the Bill is not enacted. The net impact of the Bill on expenditure is therefore likely to be smaller than if the required campaign took place in isolation.

5. It is not possible to estimate the cost of an election using the single transferable vote system at this stage because this will be the first one held on mainland Britain. Discussions will
be held with Returning Officers to ascertain the additional level of financial support required to carry out their duties which will then be met by the Scottish Executive.

**COSTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

6. The costs of local government elections are met by the Scottish Executive and therefore a change in the way councillors are elected should not give rise to additional costs on local authorities.

**COSTS ON OTHER BODIES, INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES**

7. No costs on other bodies, individuals and businesses are expected to arise from the Bill.

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**PRESIDING OFFICER’S STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE**

8. On 24 June 2002, the Presiding Officer (Sir David Steel) made the following statement:

“In my view, the provisions of the Proportional Representation (Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.”
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