

PARLIAMENTARY PAY AND EXPENSES 2007-08 AND PAY AND EXPENSE RATES

2008-09

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This briefing updates the previous SPICe briefing 'Parliamentary Allowances and Pay' (SB 07-51).

The briefing provides information on MSPs' pay and expenditure against allowances in the Scottish Parliament for 2007-08. It also provides MSP and officeholder pay levels and expense rates for 2008-09 and outlines the new scheme for reimbursing Members' expenses which came into effect on 1 October 2008.

The briefing also includes information on:

- Financial assistance available for non-executive parties
- Grants and pensions
- Salaries in other UK parliaments and assemblies
- Allowances rates in the UK Parliament

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KEY POINTS OF THIS BRIEFING

- The current annual salary of a Member of the Scottish Parliament is £55,381. Ministers and Officeholders receive a further salary in addition to their MSP salary.
- MSPs' salaries are maintained at 87.5% of the salary payable to Members of the House of Commons.
- MPs and MEPs receive a basic annual salary of £63,291. Members of the National Assembly for Wales receive £51,833 and Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly receive a basic annual salary of £43,101.
- The Scottish Parliament has made provision for a variety of allowances to be made available to MSPs on the basis of expenditure incurred.
- In the 2007-08 financial year total expenditure reimbursed to or paid on behalf of Members, or borne by the SPCB on behalf of Members, was £10.25 million. This represents a decrease of £0.01 million or 0.11% on the 2006-07 figure of £10.26 million.
- Because there was an election in 2007, with the consequent turnover of MSPs, higher expenditure is to be expected under some categories of allowance, such as the winding up costs of Members not returned at the election.
- The Scottish Parliament Party Leaders' Expenses Scheme provides for reimbursement of specified expenses incurred by a leader of a political party with 15 or more Members represented in the Parliament. Leaders of parties containing Members of the Executive are excluded.
- Financial assistance is also available to non-executive political parties in the Scottish Parliament to assist their Members in the performance of their parliamentary duties. Eligibility for the scheme depends on being a registered political party and on Members of the party not holding more than a specified number of ministerial or junior ministerial posts. The Scottish National Party is currently not eligible.
- A new Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme came into effect on 1 October 2008, so the current financial year (2008-09) covers two different schemes and two different sets of rates. This change followed the [Allowances Review](#) chaired by Sir Alan Langlands.

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES

STATUTORY PROVISION

The Scotland Act 1998 (c.46) ('the Scotland Act') provides for pay and allowances to MSPs, Officeholders of the Parliament and Ministers. The Parliament is required under s81 to make provision (by Scottish Act or by resolution of the Parliament) for the payment of:

- salaries and allowances to MSPs and to Members of the Scottish Executive (which includes junior Scottish ministers), and
- pensions and the like to former MSPs, Members of the Scottish Executive and Officeholders of the Parliament.

MSPs are not entitled to any salary or allowance until they have taken the oath of allegiance required by s84 of the Scotland Act. Once they have done so,¹ they are entitled to relevant payments for the whole period since being returned as Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Initial salaries, subject to annual up-rating according to the senior civil service formula, were set out in the [Scotland Act 1998 \(Transitory and Transitional Provisions\) \(Salaries and Allowances\) Order 1999 \[SI 1999/1097\]](#). The Presiding Officer and deputy Presiding Officers received an additional sum. Under this initial scheme, salaries were up-rated from 1 April each year using a formula relating to senior civil service salary increases (the Salaries and Allowances Order, art 7). This remained in force until 1 April 2002 when the Scottish Parliament's own arrangements, conferring the function of setting salaries on the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB), came into effect.

THE CURRENT SALARY SCHEME

In 2001 the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) reviewed the parliamentary pay of MSPs, officers of the Parliament and Ministers. It also reviewed allowances. The SSRB recommendations were broadly accepted by the four main political parties (Scottish Parliament 2001a). These have been set out in [SB 07-09 Parliamentary Pay and Allowances](#) (Earle 2007) and have led to the current scheme.

The salaries of MSPs, Officeholders of the Parliament, the Scottish Law Officers² and Ministers are now paid by the SPCB, although, prior to 1 April 2002, Ministers' salaries were paid out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund (i.e. the Scottish budget). The two Scottish Law Officers do not have to be MSPs. However, where they are not, they still receive an amount equivalent to an MSP's full salary in addition to their officeholder's salary.

[Scottish Parliament Salaries and Allowances](#) were debated in the Chamber on 21 March 2002 (Scottish Parliament 2002c). The motion provided that the SPCB should decide salary levels for Members and Ministers and that any future increases should be based on 87.5% of Westminster salaries. This motion was passed on a free vote.

¹ This must have been within two months or such other longer period as the Parliament may allow, otherwise they cease to be Members: s84(3)

² i.e. the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland. The Law Officers are the principal legal advisers to the Scottish Executive. The Lord Advocate is also the Ministerial Head of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and the head of the systems of criminal prosecution and the investigation of deaths in Scotland.

Because of the link between salaries in the devolved legislatures and those in the House of Commons, and the link between House of Commons and senior civil service pay, there is a consequent link between salaries in the devolved legislatures and those in the senior civil service.

SALARIES OF MSPS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS 2007- 08

MSP salaries have increased each April since 2002, by an average of 2.26% per annum: from April 1 2003 salaries were increased by 2.25% over 2002 levels and a 2% increase was implemented with effect from 1 April 2004. A 2.8% increase was effective from 1 April 2005. In percentage terms these increases were the same as those received by Members of Parliament at Westminster, and remain at 87.5% per cent of salaries paid to Westminster MPs. Additional amounts are paid to ministers and officers of the Parliament.

Following a [debate in the House of Commons on 18 May 2006](#) (Hansard Col 1152), a motion was passed to increase Westminster MPs' salaries in two stages: 1% from 1 April 2006 and a further 1% from 1 November 2006. At 1 April 2006 the salary of a MSP was £52,226, increasing to £52,743 on 1 November 2006. From 1 April 2007, MSPs received a 0.66% increase. From 1 April 2007, the salary of a Member of the Scottish Parliament was £53,091 (see table 1 below). From 1 November 2007 the second stage increase took effect with basic MSP pay increasing to £54,093 (see table 2 below).

Table 1: Salaries of Members of the Scottish Parliament from 1 April 2007

| Office | Additional Officeholder's Salary | Total salary |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Member of the Scottish Parliament | N/A | £53,091 |
| First Minister | £76,907 | £129,998 |
| Scottish Ministers | £39,897 | £92,988 |
| Presiding Officer | £39,897 | £92,988 |
| Junior Scottish Minister | £24,989 | £78,080 |
| Deputy Presiding Officers | £24,989 | £78,080 |
| Lord Advocate | £52,123 | £105,214 |
| Solicitor General | £37,690 | £90,781 |

Table 2: Salaries of Members of the Scottish Parliament from 1 November 2007

| Office | Additional Officeholder's Salary | Total salary |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Member of the Scottish Parliament | N/A | £54,093 |
| First Minister | £78,359 | £132,452 |
| Scottish Ministers | £40,650 | £94,743 |
| Presiding Officer | £40,650 | £94,743 |
| Junior Scottish Minister | £25,462 | £79,555 |
| Deputy Presiding Officers | £25,462 | £79,555 |
| Lord Advocate | £53,107 | £107,200 |
| Solicitor General | £38,402 | £92,495 |

The current salary levels of MSPs and parliamentary officeholders are shown in table 6 on page 10 of this briefing.

PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES

BACKGROUND

The Scottish Parliament determines the levels of, and arrangements for, Members' expenses. These are paid out up to maximum entitlements on a reimbursement basis. Provision has been in place since 1999 for the SPCB to up-rate allowances on 1 April each year, having regard to such indices as the SPCB considers appropriate. From 8 June 2006, the Scottish Parliament enabled public access to the claims made by individual MSPs under the Parliament's Allowances Scheme, through a web-based [searchable database](#). Claim information is available for the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years. These data represent actual amounts claimed from the maxima (see Table 4).

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE SCHEME

Under the scheme in place in 2007-08, separate arrangements were made for the provision of equipment, furniture and office supplies to Members, as these were not claimed against allowances. Equipment and furniture is now provided centrally by the SPCB. The changes are set out in the Appendix at the end of this briefing and the relevant allowances in Table 3. Individual [Members Costs & Expenditure for Equipment and Furniture Scheme](#) are set out on the Parliament's web site. Total expenditure on equipment and furniture for 2007-08 is set out in Table 4.

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES RATES 2007- 08

Table 3 below shows allowances and expenses rates for the 2007-08 financial year.

Table 3: [Allowances and Expenses Rates 2007- 08](#) (maxima)

| | 2007- 08 |
|---|---|
| Members' Support | £60,700* |
| Edinburgh Accommodation | |
| Annual Allowance | £11,400 (returned Members) £10,369 (new Members) |
| Overnight Rate | £110.45 per night |
| Support Fund – Employees and Contingencies | |
| Surgery Advertising – Full Year | £1,457 |
| Surgery Advertising – 4 th May | £1,327 (all Members) |
| Telephone Line Rental – Full Year | £784 (returned Members) |
| Telephone Line Rental – 4 th May | £713 (new Members) |
| Telephone Line Conversion | £363 |
| Exceptional Needs and Overnight Expenses | |
| Overnight Rate | £122.83 (London) £98.80 (elsewhere) |
| Disability Allowance | |
| Members Support | £12,173 per Parliamentary Session |
| Employee/Constituency Office | SPCB to determine on application |
| Translation & Interpretation Limit | £201 |
| Winding up | |
| Constituency Member | £20,233 |
| Regional Member | 1/3 of Members Support Allowance |
| Members' Travel | |
| Motor Mileage | 49.3p per mile |
| Motor Cycle | 24p per mile |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pedal Cycle | 20p per mile |
| Employee travel | |
| No of journeys | 66 journeys |
| Motor Mileage Rate | 40p per mile |
| Family travel | |
| Journeys per family Member per year | 11 single journeys |

* Regional Members will be advised of their Members Support Allowance on an individual basis

TOTAL EXPENDITURE REIMBURSED: 2007- 08

Table 4, below, compares total expenditure reimbursed to or paid on behalf of Members, or borne by the SPCB on behalf of Members, for 2007-08 with the previous financial year (2006-07). In 2007-08, total expenditure was £10.250 million. This represented a decrease of £0.011 million or 0.11% on the corresponding figure for 2006-07 of £10.261 million. The fact that 2007-08 was an election year has impacted on Members' expenditure in that spending in some categories is lower as a result of the dissolution period prior to the election (when technically there are no MSPs), while in others spending is higher as a result of the setting up of new offices for newly returned Members and, conversely, the winding up costs of Members not returned at the election.

Table 4: Total Expenditure Reimbursed 2006-07 and 2007-08

Total expenditure reimbursed to or paid on behalf of Members (£)

| Scheme | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | Change | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Allowances and Expenditure | 9,688,681 | 9,745,816 | -57,135 | -1% |
| Party Leaders' Allowance | 27,193 | 5,776 | 21,418 | 371% |
| Office Supplies, Furniture & Equipment | 534,597 | 509,695 | 24,902 | 5% |
| Totals | 10,250,471 | 10,261,286 | -10,815 | -0.11% |

The above figures include staff costs not identified in the individual MSP data. Further details of individual MSP allowances and categories of allowance are provided on the [MSP Allowances](#) section of the Scottish Parliament website.

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE UNDER THE ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2007-08

A breakdown of expenditure under the Allowances Scheme is provided in the [SPICe User Guide to the Allowances Search engine](#). Further [details on the expenditure of each MSP](#) are available through the Parliament's website.

The following information is therefore given at the aggregate level only:

- Salary, pension and national insurance contributions of Members' employees in 2007-08 was £6,744,798 (2006-07: £6,411,744). This figure includes expenditure of £695,479 on salary, pension and national insurance contributions under the winding up allowance.
- Expenditure on office supplies, equipment and furniture was £534,597 (2006-07: £509,695). This constituted an increase of 4.89% on the previous year's figure.
- Total expenditure on childcare vouchers for 2007-08 was £39,885 (2006-07: £40,345).
- Total security related expenditure for 2007-08 was £8,034 (2006-07: £6,312).

All other expenditure under the Allowances Scheme, and detailed individual MSP data, are available on the [MSP Expenses](#) section of the Scottish Parliament website. The individual MSP data is organised by “claim month”. It should be noted that the first date appearing in any claim will determine under which month the whole claim appears. Therefore, if a claim is submitted for a period of three months then the date of the earliest claim will dictate the “claim month”. For example if a claim covering January, February and March is submitted, then the “claim month” will be shown as January. An [Allowances Search User Guide](#) is also available on the Parliament’s web site.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ‘NON-EXECUTIVE’ PARTIES IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Section 97 of the Scotland Act 1998 provides for an Order in Council to allow the SPCB to provide [assistance for opposition parties](#) by making payments to registered political parties in the Parliament “for the purpose of assisting Members of the Parliament who are connected with such parties to perform their Parliamentary duties.” A party does not generally qualify if any MSP connected with it is also a Minister, but some flexibility is built in under s97(3)-(4) to take account, for example, of parties where only one MSP holds a ministerial post.

Under the UK Statutory Instrument the *Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Registered Political Parties) Order 1999* (the ‘Assistance Order’, SI 1999/1745), to be eligible, a party may have no more Ministers or Junior Ministers than one fifth of the total number of Ministers and Junior Ministers within the Scottish Executive. An eligible party is entitled to an annual sum based on the number of Members of the Parliament who are connected to the party, and the Assistance Order makes provision for annual up-rating of this sum.

Table 5 (below) shows the amounts eligible parties actually claimed in the period 2007-08. It is split into two periods because of the general election in May 2007. As a consequence of the election the share of seats held by political parties changed, as did the governing party. This meant that the Scottish National Party was entitled to claim the allowance until May 2007 (the first period), but not once they became the governing party. As the governing parties up to the election, neither the Scottish Liberal Democrats nor the Scottish Labour Party was entitled to the allowance, but they were as opposition parties following the election.

The first period ran from 1 April 2007 to the day before the election of the Scottish Ministers and the second period is the remainder of the 2007-08 financial year. The calculation for the first period is based on the number of Members returned for the party at the previous (2003) general election. The calculation for the second period is based on the number of Members returned for the party at the 2007 general election. The relevant amount for each separate period is a proportionate part (to the nearest penny) of the amount for the full year. The annual entitlement per seat was £6,216.77 for both periods. For example, assume a Party has 10 Members prior to the election in May 2007 and following the election has 6 Members. The calculation would be as follows:

1 April 07 to 17 May 07 (the first period: 7 weeks):

$£6,216.77 \times 10 = £62,167.70$ divided by 52 weeks = $£1195.53 \times 7$ weeks = **£8,368.71**

18 May 07 to 31 March 08 (the second period: 45 weeks):

$£6,216.77 \times 6 = £37,300.62$ divided by 52 weeks = $£717.32 \times 45$ weeks = **£32,279.40**

Total for 2007-08 financial year: $£8,368.71 + £32,279.40 =$ **£40,648.11**

Table 5: Financial Assistance to Non-Executive Parties: 2007- 08

| Eligible party | First Period | | Second Period | | Total eligible amount (£) | Amounts claimed 2007-08 (£) |
|--|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Seats | Eligible amount (£) | Seats | Eligible amount (£) | | |
| Scottish Labour Party | N/A | N/A | 46 | 247,475 | 247,475 | 247,233 |
| Scottish National Party | 26 | 21,759 | N/A | N/A | 21,759 | 21,759 |
| Scottish Liberal Democrats | N/A | N/A | 16 | 84,166 | 84,166 | 83,684 |
| Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party | 18 | 15,064 | 17 | 91,458 | 106,522 | 106,522 |
| Scottish Green Party | 7 | 5,858 | 2 | 10,760 | 16,618 | 16,618 |
| Scottish Socialist Party | 6 | 5,021 | N/A | N/A | 5,021 | 5,021 |
| Scottish Senior Citizens Unity Party | 1 | 837 | N/A | N/A | 837 | 837 |
| Totals | 58 | 48,539 | 81 | 433,859 | 482,397 | 481,673 |

GRANTS AND PENSIONS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The transitional and transitory provisions subordinate to the Scotland Act, to which referral will remain in force until the Scottish Parliament makes its own arrangements under s81(3) of the Scotland Act or by resolution conferring power on the SPCB. Steps have been taken in that regard by way of the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Bill, which at time of writing is at Stage 2. Resettlement and Ill-health Retirement grants are available to MSPs, and Severance grants are available to specified officeholders.

Pensions are available to MSPs and specified Officeholders (including the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General).³ Pension entitlements are currently available to the First Minister and Officeholders that are additional to their MSP pensions, although this will be abolished under the new pensions scheme. Pensions are currently paid out of a fund known as the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund. The fund is vested in and administered by the SPCB. Participants contribute 6% of their salaries or, where applicable, 6% of a 'permitted maximum' salary. Participants can apply for an early pension where they cease to be a contributor because of ill-health before attaining the age of 65. Further details of the new pensions scheme, to be introduced in 2011 including the above mentioned grants, are set out in [SB 08-60 The Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Bill: Stage 1 Debate](#).

³ Scotland Act 1998 (Transitory and Transitional Provisions) (Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme) Order 1999 [SI 1999/1082]

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES AND EXPENSE RATES 2008-09

SALARIES OF MSPS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS 2008-09

The current (2008-09) salaries of MSPs, Ministers, junior Scottish Ministers and other parliamentary officeholders are set out in the following table:

Table 6: Salaries of Members of the Scottish Parliament from 1 April 2008

| Office Holder | Annual Salary (£) | Annual Salary (including MSP salary) (£) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| MSP | | 55,381 |
| MSP (dual mandate) | 18,461 | 73,842 |
| First Minister | 80,224 | 135,605 |
| Cabinet Secretary | 41,618 | 96,999 |
| Minister | 26,068 | 81,449 |
| Presiding Officer | 41,618 | 96,999 |
| Deputy Presiding Officer | 26,068 | 81,449 |
| Lord Advocate | 54,371 | 109,752 |
| Solicitor General for Scotland | 39,316 | 94,697 |

Those Members of the Scottish Parliament who hold a dual mandate are listed in a Factsheet: [MSPs with Dual Mandates](#) (Scottish Parliament 2007b). MSPs who are also Councillors will not be affected as being a Councillor is classified as separate employment. There may, however, be an obligation on the MSP to declare or register the additional salary as an interest. MSPs who are also MPs or MEPs receive one third of their MSP salary during any period where an MP or an MEP salary is payable to an MSP, regardless of whether the salary was in fact drawn down. Under paragraph 2(2) of the Scottish Parliament Salary Scheme, there is no flexibility negotiation on this point (Scottish Parliament 2002b).

REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

In June 2007, the SPCB announced that there would be a full review of parliamentary allowances. The [Independent Allowances Review Panel](#) that was set up to conduct the review published its report on 11 March 2008. The [Panel website](#) (Scottish Parliament 2007) contains information including details of [the panel](#) itself, [background materials and news releases](#), and the [public call for evidence](#). The [remit of the review](#) covered the three main allowance categories, that is the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme and the Equipment and Furniture Scheme. The remit was as follows:

To carry out a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme and Equipment and Furniture Scheme. As part of its consideration, the review panel is to have regard to the following:

- What are the tasks expected of Members of the Scottish Parliament?
- What are the tasks expected of party leaders and should there be a numerical qualification in terms of numbers of Members to qualify for payment, and if so, what should this be?

- What resources are required to enable those tasks to be undertaken effectively and efficiently on behalf of constituents and the Parliament
- What resources could be best provided centrally, or through other financial support mechanisms and what resources could be provided through an Allowances Scheme

The review panel shall invite evidence submissions from MSPs and such persons, parties and other organisations as it deems appropriate, and shall otherwise conduct the review as it sees fit.

The review panel may consider comparators with other support mechanisms both within the United Kingdom and beyond.

The review panel shall prepare a report setting out its findings and recommendations, with reasons, for submission to the SPCB by around the end of March 2008.

The report of the Review Panel (Scottish Parliament 2008a) made [68 recommendations](#) and proposed a streamlined system across six broad headings: accommodation, staffing, office costs, travel, party leaders' provision and provision for winding up. The majority of recommendations have been accepted. In the Foreword to the Report, a change of terminology was explained as follows (Scottish Parliament 2008a)

“We believe that ‘allowances’ really means ‘reimbursement of expenses’. This term makes it as clear as possible that this is not money which augments Members’ salaries, but is expenditure necessarily incurred to do the job that the people of Scotland expect of them.”

The provisions of the new reimbursement scheme have been tabulated (see Appendix to this briefing in which the categories of Staffing and Office Costs have been combined). The new scheme, based on the reimbursement of receipted expenses, came into effect on 1 October 2008.

PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES RATES 2008-09

Allowance and expense rates for 2008-09 are presented below in two tables. Table 7 shows rates which operated for the first half of the financial year (1 April to 30 September 2008) under the previous Allowances Scheme and table 8 gives the rates which operate under the new Scheme, effective from 1 October 2008.

Table 7: Allowances and Expenses Rates 1 April to 30 September 2008

| | 2008-09 (1 April – 30 Sept) |
|---|---|
| Members' Support | £63,100 |
| Edinburgh Accommodation | |
| Annual Allowance | £11,900 |
| Overnight Rate | Up to £114.98 per night* |
| Support Fund – Employees and Contingencies | |
| Surgery Advertising – Full Year | £1,519 |
| Telephone Line Rental | £816 |
| Telephone Line Conversion | £367 |
| Exceptional Needs and Overnight Expenses | |
| Overnight Rate | £127.87 (London)* £102.85 (elsewhere)* |
| Disability Allowance | |
| Members Support | £12,672 per Parliamentary Session |

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| | |
|---|--|
| Employee/Constituency Office Translation & Interpretation Limit | SPCB to determine on application £208 |
| Winding up | |
| Constituency Member | £21,033 |
| Regional Member | 1/3 of Members Support Allowance |
| Members' Travel | |
| Motor Mileage | 49.3p per mile |
| Motor Cycle | 24p per mile |
| Pedal Cycle | 20p per mile |
| Employee travel | |
| No of journeys | 74 journeys |
| Motor Mileage Rate | 40p per mile |
| Family travel | |
| Journeys per family Member per year | 12 single journeys |

* The overnight allowance is to meet the cost of bed, breakfast, evening meal and refreshments. Alcohol costs will not be reimbursed except when taken with a meal up to a maximum limit of £8 but within the overall overnight rate.

Table 8: [Expenses and Provisions Limits](#): Rates effective from 1st October 2008 (full year provision – pro-rata for 2008-09)

| | |
|---|---|
| Office Cost Provision | £15,600* |
| Staff Cost Provision | £56,650 |
| Accommodation in Edinburgh | |
| Annual Provision | £11,900 |
| Overnight Rate | Up to £133.87 |
| Overnight Expenses | |
| Overnight Rate | Up to £156.36 (London, Strasbourg, Brussels) Up to £133.87 (elsewhere) As determined by SPCB (Outside UK, Strasbourg & Brussels) |
| Office Cost Winding Up Provision | |
| Constituency Member | £5,200 |
| Regional Member | 1/3 of Office Cost Provision |
| Staff Cost Winding Up Provision | Members contact Personnel Office for details |
| Members Travel Provision | |
| Motor Mileage | 40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed 25p per mile for each mile over 10,000 claimed |
| Motor Cycle | 24p per mile |
| Pedal Cycle | 20p per mile |
| Staff Travel Provision | |
| No of journeys | 74 journeys |
| Motor Mileage Rate | 40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed 25p per mile for each mile over 10,000 claimed |
| Telecommunications | £1,183 |
| Surgery advertising | £1,560 |

* Regional Members will be advised of their Office Cost Provision on an individual basis

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 'NON-EXECUTIVE' PARTIES 2008-09

Table 9 below shows the amounts eligible political parties are entitled to claim for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The entitlement of £6,216.77 per seat for 2007-08 was up-rated by 3.8%, so that the entitlement per Member for 2008-09 is £6,453.01.

Table 9: Non-Executive Party Entitlements: 2008- 09:

| Party | Seats | Pro-rata amount (£) |
|--|-----------|---------------------|
| Scottish National Party | N/A | - |
| Scottish Labour Party | 46 | 296,838 |
| Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party | 17 | 109,701 |
| Scottish Liberal Democrats | 16 | 103,248 |
| Scottish Green Party | 2 | 12,906 |
| Totals | 81 | 522,694 |

For further information on the funding of political parties, which is a matter reserved to Westminster, see House of Commons Research Paper 08/74 The Political Parties and Elections Bill (House of Commons 2008).

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES IN OTHER PARLIAMENTS

SALARIES

The salary figures given in this section relate to United Kingdom legislatures, although information on other countries may be sought from the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#).⁴

The United Kingdom Parliament: House of Commons and House of Lords

Tables 10 and 11 below provide details of salaries for the financial year 2008-09 in respect of MPs, Ministers and the principal Officeholders in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

On 2 March 2007, the Prime Minister announced, in a written ministerial statement, that from April 2007, the salary of a Member of Parliament would increase by 0.66%:

The Review Body's recommendations on SCS Pay mean that Ministers' and MPS' pay, which is linked to the average increase in the midpoint of SCS pay, will increase by 0.66 per cent. The Review Body is also currently conducting a triennial review of MPs' and Ministers' pay which is due to report in summer 2007. (House of Commons 2007a)

In a [ministerial statement on 26 July 2007](#) Harriet Harman MP, the Leader of the House of Commons, announced the completion of the SSRB Review on 26 July 2007:

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has today received the 3rd triennial report from the Senior Salaries Review Body on Parliamentary Pay and Allowances.

The Government plan to publish the report in the autumn, followed shortly thereafter by consideration by both Houses in the normal way. (House of Commons 2007c)

At Business Questions, Harriet Harman said: "The report will be published, and the House will debate it, in the autumn" (House of Commons 2007b). The announcement was made on the final sitting day before the Summer Recess.

From 1 April 2007 Members' salaries were increased to £61,181 and subsequently, in November 2007, to £61,820. This staged increase followed a debate in the House on 24 January 2008 following which a motion was accepted without division to end the automatic annual up-rating of salaries on 1 April 2008 and to agree a two-stage increase of 0.84% and 1.06%, to be implemented in April and November of 2007, respectively.

In January 2008, the House agreed that Sir John Baker would set up a mechanism for establishing salaries. The Baker Report (Sir John Baker 2008) was published in June 2008 (House of Commons Library 2008b).

In accordance with a resolution of the House of 3 July 2008, Members' pay, with effect from 1 April 2008, was set at £63,291 (House of Commons Library 2008a). This is added to any additional ministerial salary entitlement, as set out in Table 10, below. The motion for debate

⁴ The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has published the following: Commonwealth Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances 2000-2001, Survey of Facilities and Services Available to Commonwealth Parliamentarians, 2002-2003 and Survey of Remuneration paid to Members of the Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth, 2004-2005. these documents are available through the CPA web site under [Electronic publications and recommendations of CPA Study Groups, Seminars and Workshops](#): <http://www.cpahq.org/default.aspx?id=2368>.

was tabled by the Government and did not follow the recommendations of the Baker Report (House of Commons Library 2008b).

Tables 10 and 11 have been reproduced from information published by the House of Commons Library (House of Commons 2008a). They set out additional ministerial salary entitlements in the House of Commons and those of Ministers and office holders in the House of Lords.

Table 10: MPs', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salaries in the House of Commons 2008-09

| Office | Ministerial salary entitlements | Full salary entitlements (£) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Member of Parliament | N/A | 63,291 |
| Prime Minister (a) | 130,959 | 194,250 |
| Minister of State | 40,759 | 104,050 |
| Parliamentary Under Secretary | 30,937 | 94,228 |
| Government Chief Whip (b) | 78,575 | 141,866 |
| Government Deputy Chief Whip | 40,759 | 104,050 |
| Government Whip | 26,231 | 89,522 |
| Assistant Government Whip | 26,231 | 89,522 |
| Leader of the Opposition | 72,029 | 135,320 |
| Opposition Chief Whip | 40,759 | 104,050 |
| Opposition Deputy Chief Whip | 26,231 | 89,522 |
| Opposition Assistant Whip | 26,231 | 89,522 |
| Speaker | 78,575 | 141,866 |
| Chairman of Ways and Means | 40,759 | 104,050 |
| First Deputy Chairman | 35,823 | 99,114 |
| Second Deputy Chairman | 35,823 | 99,114 |
| Attorney General (c) | | |
| Solicitor General (d) | 68,464 | 131,755 |
| Advocate General for Scotland (e) | | |

Table 11: Ministers' and Officeholders' Salaries in the House of Lords 2008-09

| Office | Salary (£) |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Lord Speaker (f) | 106,654 |
| Cabinet Minister (a) | 106,654 |
| Minister of State | 83,275 |
| Parliamentary Under Secretary | 72,529 |
| Government Chief Whip | 83,275 |
| Government Deputy Chief Whip | 72,529 |
| Government Whip | 67,069 |
| Leader of the Opposition | 72,529 |
| Opposition Chief Whip | 67,069 |
| Lord Chancellor (g) | |
| Chairman of Committees | 83,275 |
| Principal Deputy Chairman | 77,907 |
| Solicitor General (d) | |
| Attorney General (c) | 111,574 |
| Advocate General for Scotland (e) | 96,854 |

Notes:

- (a) On 8 May 1997 the new Government stated that the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers would not take the post-election increases. The post holders drew a reduced ministerial salary. Following the election in May 2001 the Government announced that ministers would take their full salary entitlement.

- (b) Government Chief Whip in Cabinet as from 28 July 1998 to 2 October 2008, so received Cabinet Minister's salary. From 3 October 2008, the Government Chief Whip was not a Cabinet minister
- (c) Office in Lords from 29 July 1999 [*Attorney General's Salary Order 2000*, SI 2000/1827] - implementing 1996 SSRB recommendation that the salary should have same differential over the rate for a Cabinet Minister in Lords as it had in the Commons. From April to July 1999, the Commons ministerial salary was £68,332.
- (d) Office in Commons in 1992-1997 Parliament, and as from 28 July 1998.
- (e) The Office of Advocate General for Scotland was created by the *Scotland Act 1998*: the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland became Ministers in the Scottish Executive.
- (f) The Lord Speaker took office on 4 July 2006; the *Constitutional Reform Act 2005* no longer required the Lord Chancellor to fulfil this role.
- (g) From 1 April 1997, in line with the staged increase for the Lord Chief Justice. The *Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991*, as amended by the *Ministerial and Other Salaries Order 1996* [SI 1996/1913], determined that the Lord Chancellor should receive £2,500 a year more than the salary for the time being payable to the Lord Chief Justice. However, the Lord Chancellor has elected to receive the same salary as other Cabinet Members in the Lords. The Lord Chancellor no longer has to sit in the House of Lords. The position is now held by Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Justice.

ALLOWANCES RATES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT

Allowance rates for Members of the House of Commons for 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been set out in Table 12, below.

Table 12: Summary of Current Rates: House of Commons:

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|--|--------------|
| Members' Parliamentary Salary | £61,820 | £63,291 |
| Staffing Allowance | £90,505 (maximum) | £100,205 |
| Incidental Expenses Provision (IEP) | £21,339 | £22,193 |
| Communications Allowance | £10,000 | £10,400 |
| IT equipment | Centrally provided; worth around £3,000 | |
| London Supplement | £2,812 | £7,500 |
| Additional Costs Allowance | £23,083 | 24,006 |
| Winding up Allowance | £37,281 | £40,799 |
| | One third of staffing provision plus IEP (maximum) | |
| Car Mileage - First 10,000 miles | 40p per mile | 40p per mile |
| Car Mileage - In excess of 10,000 miles | 25p per mile | 25p per mile |
| Motorcycle allowance | 24p per mile | 24p per mile |
| Bicycle allowance | 20p per mile | 20p per mile |

More information on salaries and allowances available to Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords can be found in the following publications:

- House of Commons Library Research Paper 04/40 [Parliamentary Pay and Allowances](#) (House of Commons Library 2004)
- House of Commons Information Office [Factsheet](#) M5 (House of Commons Information Office 2004)
- House of Commons Library Research Paper 06/47 [Parliamentary pay and allowances](#) (which replaces Research Paper 05/42)
- House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/4192 [Parliamentary pay and allowances – update](#).
- House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/04892 *Members' salaries – implementing the Baker Review* (House of Commons Library 2008a).

The National Assembly for Wales

Table 13 below provides details of the 2008-09 salaries of Members, Ministers and the principal officeholders in the National Assembly for Wales. Following a Determination, based on recommendations of the SSRB and passed by the Assembly on 9 March 2005 (National Assembly for Wales 2005), the salaries of Members and Officeholders are increased each year by the same percentage as the average of the movements in the mid-points of the senior civil service pay bands. This is in line with arrangements in the House of Commons in which pay increases for Ministers are linked automatically to the increase in pay bands for the senior civil service, under the provisions of section 1 of the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1997.

Table 13: Welsh Assembly Members', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salary Levels 2008-09

| Office | Additional salary entitlement (£) | Full salary entitlement (£) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Member (a) | N/A | 51,833 |
| MLAs who are also MEPs | 17,278 | 69,111 |
| First Minister | 78,355 | 130,188 |
| Presiding Officer/Welsh Ministers | 40,645 | 92,478 |
| Leader of the largest party without an Executive role | 40,645 | 92,478 |
| Leader of other opposition parties | 11,331 | 63,164 |
| Deputy Presiding Officer/Deputy Ministers | 25,566 | 77,399 |
| Government Chief Whip | 25,566 | 77,399 |
| Assembly Commissioner | 11,331 | 63,164 |
| Chairs of Scrutiny, Audit and Finance Committees | 11,331 | 63,164 |
| Chairs of other Committees (b) | 5,934 | 57,767 |

Notes:

- (a) All Members receive the basic salary, the other payments are additional to this apart from AMs who are also MPs or MEPs, in which case this payment is all that is paid to them by the Assembly in addition to their salary from the other legislature. There are no AMs at present who are also MPs or MEPs.
- (b) Children & Young People Committee, Equality of Opportunities Committee, European & External Affairs Committee, Petitions Committee, Subordinate Legislation Committee, Broadcasting Committee, Committee on Standards of Conduct

The Northern Ireland Assembly

Following the appointment of an Executive after the election in March 2007, Ministers receive such salaries as determined either by the Assembly or by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The figures given in Table 14 set out the details of that determination. The up-rating of salaries follows recommendations of the SSRB, which in December 2008 recommended a downgrading of MLA pay. This recommendation was based on the level of constituents per MLA, such that the SSRB recommended that MLAs should receive 75% of an MP's salary, rather than the current 82% (Senior Salaries Review Body 2008).

Table 14: Northern Ireland Assembly Members', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salary Levels for 2008-09

| Office / Post | Additional Officeholder's salary (£) | Total Salary (£) |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Assembly Member | N/A | 43,101 |
| First Minister and Deputy First Ministers | 71,434 | 114,535 |
| Presiding Officer | 37,801 | 80,902 |
| Deputy Presiding Officer | 8,499 | 51,600 |
| Minister | 37,801 | 80,902 |
| Junior Minister | 19,609 | 62,710 |
| Chairs of Statutory Committees | 11,331 | 54,432 |
| Deputy Chairs of Statutory Committees | 5,667 | 48,768 |
| Members of the Assembly Commission | 11,331 | 54,432 |

The European Parliament

Under the European Parliament (Pay and Pensions) Act 1979 the salary of British MEPs is linked to that of British MPs. This gives MEPs the same salary as MPs (discussed above), of £63,291. MEPs who are also MPs receive an additional one third of this rate (a so-called '[duality rate](#)'). Allowances are governed by the European Parliament.

The link between MEP and MP salaries in the home countries of MEPs will be discontinued after the 2009 European Parliament election. It will be replaced by an agreed statutory regime⁵ that will set the monthly salary for all MEPs at 38.5% of the basic monthly salary of a judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities (as at July 2006, this was around €7,340 or £6,234 per month).⁶ This is designed to end pay disparities among Members from different countries, who currently receive the same salaries as Members of their national parliaments. The new system will mean MEPs will be paid by the European Union and will in turn pay income tax on those salaries directly to the EU budget. There will be a transitional period during which member States may apply rules different to those in the statute.

With the coming into force of the statute, MEPs' travel expenses will no longer be refunded on a flat-rate basis, but will be reimbursed on the basis of actual costs incurred. Members will enter a common pension scheme, with contributions paid by the European Parliament.

⁵ <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:262:SOM:EN:HTML>

⁶ See Article 2 of Reg 422/67/EC as amended.

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APPENDIX: COMPARISON OF ALLOWANCES SCHEME AND NEW REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES SCHEME

Table A: Comparison between Members' Allowances Scheme and new Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, including Review Panel Recommendations

| 1. Accommodation | Previous Scheme Provisions | New Scheme Provisions |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>Edinburgh Accommodation Allowance: Entitlement depended on how close the Member's constituency and main residence is to Edinburgh. It covered the following expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rent payable for the lease of the property • interest on the capital required to purchase the property • conveyancing fees and outlays, and the surveyors' fees, incurred in the purchase of the property • council tax • factoring charges • the provision of utilities • building and contents insurance • TV Licence • reasonable removal costs • reasonable costs of securing the property <p>The constituencies and regions that qualify Members for Accommodation allowance are set out in Annex B of the MSP Allowances Scheme. The applicable amounts were £11,900 per year or up to £114.98 per night</p> <p>Exceptional Needs Allowance: up to £127.87 (London) or £102.85 (elsewhere) per night was available to Members who represent certain constituencies, where it would have been unreasonable to expect the Member to return to his/her main or other home before or after undertaking parliamentary duties within that Member's constituency or region. Eligibility depended on whether the constituency in question is one which is of over 250,000 hectares, contains significant island communities or is among the largest regions, as set out in Annex C of the Scheme.</p> | <p>The provisions are set out in Section 2 of the New Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008b). Only rented accommodation is covered by the new scheme, although transitional provisions will continue to allow mortgage interest to be claimed until March 2011. Expenses for overnight accommodation in Edinburgh are payable to Members whose main residence lies within constituencies set out in Group 2 of Annex A to the New Scheme. Members whose main residence is in constituencies within Group 3 are entitled to reimbursement of the cost of either overnight accommodation or leased accommodation in Edinburgh. The latter covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rent • council tax and water charges • factoring charges, but excluding common repair costs • utility costs and telecommunications costs, and • contents insurance. <p>Members who already have a residence which they occupy in Edinburgh are not allowed to claim for the cost of accommodation in Edinburgh, although members whose main residence lies in Groups 2 or 3 of Annex A and who also have a residence in Edinburgh, may apply to the SPCB for reimbursement of the cost of overnight accommodation in Edinburgh. This will be reimbursed only if it would not be reasonable in all the circumstances to expect the Member to use that other residence in connection with the performance of parliamentary duties. If the other residence is used in connection with parliamentary duties the Member may apply to the SPCB for reimbursement of the costs in respect of that other residence.</p> <p>Members may be reimbursed for accommodation outside Edinburgh, but within the United Kingdom or Brussels or Strasbourg, that is required in connection with performance of parliamentary duties, where the Member is prevented by those duties from using their own residence. This does not include the</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Overnight Expenses Allowance: The same amounts as Exceptional Needs were available for carrying out parliamentary duties that required spending a night away from the MSP's main or other residence. Reimbursement of expenses in connection with trips outside the UK was permitted only if the trip had been authorised in advance by the SPCB.</p> | <p>performance of parliamentary duties within the constituency or region, unless the Member has been returned from one of the constituencies or regions listed in Annex B or for Members returned for Cunninghame North or the Western Isles, where the requirement arises on an island in the Cunninghame North constituency.</p> |
|---|--|

| <h2>2. Staffing and Office Costs</h2> | |
|---|--|
| <h3>Previous Scheme Provisions</h3> | <h3>New Scheme Provisions</h3> |
| <p>Members' Support Allowance: an allowance was allocated and subject to the provision of receipts for expenditure. The main purpose of the support allowance was to enable a Member to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employ staff to assist the Member in carrying out his/her parliamentary duties • establish and run an office, within the relevant constituency/region • meet with constituents • pay the fees of a Member or his / her staff, and to meet the training, travelling and overnight expenses, of his/her staff, attending seminars/conferences which relate to the Member carrying out his/her parliamentary duties • pay staff and volunteer training costs • meet travelling and overnight expenses of travel to elsewhere in the UK (i.e. outside Scotland) and to Brussels and Strasbourg as part of a Member's parliamentary duties <p>Data protection issues arise for MSPs where their staff are paid directly from their allowances – these salaries cannot be disclosed for data protection reasons and therefore are not included</p> <p>Support Fund - Employees and Contingencies: the fund was disbursed in respect of National Insurance and pension contributions paid by a Member as an employer as well as salary and employment costs. It also included items such as surgery advertising and telephone line rental and conversion.</p> <p>Pooling of costs: MSPs could:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employ their own staff 2. Employ their own staff and "pool" costs to employ other staff on a | <p>Note the new separate staffing provision and office cost provision comprises most of the provision of the former Members Support Allowance and Support Fund – employees and contingencies.</p> <p>Staff Employment</p> <p>The new scheme provisions in respect of Employment of staff are set out in Section 3 of the new scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008b).</p> <p>Members may engage staff on a full time, part time, contractual or agency basis, and by permanent or temporary arrangement. The provision covers salary and national insurance contributions, temporary staff cover costs, incidental and ancillary employment costs and redundancy costs. Staff may not, however, undertake significant party political activity during any hours of work which are included within claims submitted under this heading.</p> <p>The SPCB provides a payroll service, arranges for employer's pension contributions of up to 10% of salary to be paid to an employee's choice of pension scheme and processes any other benefits deemed appropriate. However, Members may submit claims in respect of an employee only if the employee is employed on terms which are no less favourable than the model terms and conditions of employment approved by the SPCB from time to time.</p> <p>Staff salary costs may be reimbursed up to the maximum as set out in Table 5, below (£56,650). This figure includes redundancy costs, overtime payments and gross annual salary or salaries and incidental costs arising in the case of pooled staff.</p> <p>National Insurance employer's contributions may be reimbursed, as can pension contribution, the latter to a maximum of 10% of the employee's gross annual salary.</p> <p>The engagement of temporary staff cover for absences of more than two</p> |

shared basis

3. Pool costs and employ all staff on a shared basis.

Most parties pooled some costs to which they were entitled under the Members Support Allowance, in order to employ shared staff. This meant that the pooled cost figures shown against MSPs of those parties are primarily and substantially employment costs. This does not mean that those MSPs are necessarily higher spenders than other MSPs, but rather that, as the employment costs are not specifically identifiable as staff salaries, they have not been excluded as is the case with MSPs who employ their staff directly. So any ranking of MSA expenditure would not accurately represent the results.

Pensions of Members' Employees: Employees of MSPs have a contractual entitlement to receive a pension contribution from their employers. The SPCB, on behalf of MSPs as employers introduced pension arrangements for Members' employees.

weeks must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation. Costs reimbursed may include gross salary, national insurance contributions and pension contributions.

Incidental costs that may be reimbursed include the cost of recruitment, as well as the attendance of staff Members at conferences, training and travel and overnight accommodation associated with these.

Redundancy costs will be reimbursed only if the SPCB is satisfied that the Member was entitled to be reimbursed for staff salary costs, the employee was dismissed by reason of redundancy, the Member was under legal obligation to make the payment and under the contract of employment the employee's entitlement to a redundancy payment exceeds the employee's statutory entitlement

Where claims under this section are made in respect of the employment of a close family Member, the nature of the relationship must be declared to the SPCB. This must be in writing, accompanied by such documented information as the SPCB might require. The SPCB must publish all such declarations in a [Register](#) which is open to public inspection. Close family Member is defined under paragraph 9.1.1. of the new scheme as (a) a spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner of the Member; or (b) a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of the Member or of a person mentioned in sub-paragraph (a).

Office Costs

The new provisions are set out in [Section 4](#) of the new scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008b). Members are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable office costs. Such costs include the costs of:

- (a) establishing and running a local parliamentary office, such as leasing and utility costs;
- (b) purchase or lease of office furniture or equipment (including IT or photocopying equipment) or the purchase of stationery;
- (c) telecommunications
- (d) publication and distribution of newsletters, annual reports and surveys;
- (e) the cost of advertising and the cost of surgery advertising, in so far as the cost of surgery advertising exceeds the limit on entitlement
- (f) the cost of overnight accommodation for a Members of staff required to accompany a Member for the purpose of assisting the Member in the performance of parliamentary duties;
- (g) the hire of premises for surgeries, public meetings and other meetings with

- constituents;
- (h) the fees for a Member attending a seminar or conference; and
- (i) any other costs which are ancillary to those specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) above.

Members may, however, establish and run local parliamentary offices in the constituency for which they were returned. In such a case, the office may not be used for party political purposes. Constituency Members are entitled to reimbursement of office costs of the constituency office. Further rules apply particular cases such as where a single regional Member is returned from a registered political party's regional list or where there is a regional Member not aligned to any political party. And where in a particular region more than one Member is returned from a registered political party's regional list, those Members are entitled between them only to reimbursement of office costs in respect of one regional office. The SPCB may determine that additional reimbursements may be made in respect of regional offices. The entitlements are set out in the following table (rounded up to the nearest £100).

| No Regional Members | Percentage of Limit on Office Costs Applicable to a Single Regional Member | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| | One Office in the Region (limit per Member) | Two Offices in the Region (limit per Member) |
| 2 | 60% | 100% |
| 3 | 47% | 80% |
| 4 | 40% | 65% |
| 5 | 36% | 56% |

If a Member sublets their local parliamentary office to a close family Member they will not be entitled to reimbursement. If they sublet to any other person they will be reimbursed for their cost less the income received. If the office is leased from a party political organisation, the Member must submit a report to the SPCB prepared by a surveyor, indicating a fair market rent for the premises which will form the basis for reimbursement.

If a Member sublets to such an organisation must before doing so furnish the SPCB with a surveyors report on market value and reimbursement will be made following a calculation made on that basis.

Reimbursement is not paid for offices shared with MPs or MEPs unless a written agreement has been entered into that specifies which Member is liable

for which portion of the rent.

Members who do not establish and run a local parliamentary office in the constituency or region to which they were elected, or where the Member uses an office in the Parliament as a local parliamentary office, they will be is entitled only to reimbursement of office costs up to a maximum amount of 50% of the maximum entitlement.

Members who work from home are not entitled to reimbursement other than the cost of telecommunications

Surgery advertising, including the publication of office opening hours and the production of leaflets, may be reimbursed. This is done under a separate provision, as are telecommunications expenses under paragraphs 4.1.2.(c) and (e).

A new provision under the scheme is virement: once in any financial year a Member may transfer up to one third of their office costs entitlement to their entitlement to reimbursement of staff salary costs. The SPCB must be notified in advance. Other transfers between categories are not permitted.

3. Travel

| Previous Scheme Provisions | New Scheme Provisions |
|--|--|
| <p>Members' Travel Allowance: reimbursed travelling expenses at specified rates (car travel 49.3p per mile, motorbike 24p per mile and bicycle 20p per mile) necessarily incurred by that Member within Scotland in performing his or her parliamentary duties. The variations in Members' travel costs reflected the differences in the geographical size and location of constituencies and regions represented together with the means of travel available to Members. Reimbursement was not provided for travel between the Parliamentary complex and accommodation rented or bought under the Edinburgh Accommodation Allowance.</p> <p>Employee Travel Allowance: Members were eligible for an allowance in respect of travelling expenses at a specified rate incurred by their employees supporting the Member in performance of their parliamentary duties on a set number of journeys (i.e. 66) in the year.</p> <p>Family Travel Allowance: Members were eligible for funding of 11 single journeys per family Member per year between their constituency,</p> | <p>The new scheme provisions are set out in Section 5 of the Expenses Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008b). Two of the most significant changes are that family travel should not be reimbursed from the public purse and the reduction in the mileage rate in line with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs rates.</p> <p>A Member is entitled to reimbursement of the cost of travel:</p> <p>(a) undertaken in the performance of parliamentary duties within the UK or</p> <p>(b) to Brussels or Strasbourg for meetings with Members of the European Parliament and/or with representatives of European Union Institutions in connection with Members' parliamentary duties.</p> <p>The provision may include travel between places at which parliamentary duties were carried out and overnight accommodation, but not the cost of travel between the Member's property paid for under accommodation expenses, and the Parliament.</p> <p>Travel undertaken by Members' staff may be reimbursed where it is done in support of the Member in fulfilment of the latter's parliamentary duties. The entitlement under this provision is limited to the cost of a maximum of 74 journeys per Member in any financial year. Claims must be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the</p> |

region, or main residence and Edinburgh. Immediate Family was defined to include a spouse or other nominated person and any child under 18.

journeys. A 'journey' comprises all such travel completed within one day, but does not include daily commuting journeys by a Member of staff to a normal place of work.

4. Party Leaders' Provision

The [Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme](#) remains unchanged.

The Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme was introduced following debate on the following motions: Scottish Parliament Salaries Scheme (SP Paper 554) and Scottish Parliament Party Leaders' Allowances Scheme (SP Paper 555). They were debated on 21 March 2002 (Scottish Parliament 2002c). This scheme represents the Parliament's alternative to the SSRB's proposals to take account of the position of party leaders. It came into effect on 1 April 2002 and has provision for annual up-rating from 1 April every year (Scottish Parliament 2002a, Part A, rule 6(1)).

The scheme applies to those party leaders of registered political parties with not less than 15 MSPs, but excludes the leader of any party which has a Scottish Minister or Junior Minister amongst its Members (Scottish Parliament 2002a, Part A, rule 1). Thus, in the current parliamentary term (2007-2011), the leaders of the Scottish Labour Party, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible, but not the leaders of the Scottish National Party or the Scottish Green Party. Entitlement in respect of a registered political party with fifteen but not more than twenty nine Members is £13,591 and in respect of a registered political party with thirty or more Members it is £25,907.

The allowance may be used for:

- the employment of staff
- necessary office accommodation costs
- office equipment and furniture
- travel and overnight expenses of the Member and his or her staff. Travel can be within Scotland and the UK, to Brussels/Strasbourg or elsewhere outside the United Kingdom, for meetings as part of the duties of a Parliamentary party leader or, in the case of staff, assisting with those duties. The SPCB must authorise in advance the travel expenses of staff Members for travel outside the United Kingdom.

There is no additional salary or allowance in the Scottish Parliament for parties' business managers (whips). Additional salary entitlements are paid to government and opposition whips and deputy whips in the United Kingdom Parliament, as set out in Table 9, below.

5. Winding Up

| Previous Scheme Provisions | New Scheme Provisions |
|--|---|
| <p>Eligibility was based on the Member ceasing to be a Member of the Scottish Parliament and was equivalent to one third of the Members' Support Allowance (see above) payable in any one financial year (i.e. one third of 60,700 = £20,233).</p> | <p>The provisions are set out in Section 8 of the Expenses Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008b). The provisions comprise two distinct elements: staff redundancy and office winding up.</p> <p>On the date when a Member ceases to be a Member of the Scottish Parliament, for whatever reason, they are entitled to the allowance. On or after that date the other</p> |

sections of the allowances scheme continue to apply where they relate to expenses already incurred or commitments made prior to that date and will continue to apply in respect of the costs of winding up the Member's office.

A former Member remains entitled to reimbursement of staff salary costs, employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions, so as to retain their staff for the purposes of winding up, for a maximum period of three months after the date on which they ceased to be a Member. Where a Member of staff is dismissed for reasons of redundancy, that staff Member is entitled to any redundancy payment, subject to certain conditions as set out in para. 8.3 of the Scheme.

In respect of office winding up costs, a former Member is entitled to reimbursement of the costs reasonably incurred in the closing down of a local parliamentary office subject to a limit equivalent to one third of the limit on entitlement to reimbursement of office costs which would otherwise have been applicable to that former Member (i.e. one third of £15,600 = £5,200). The time limit for submission of claims is six months from the date on which the Member ceased to be a Member of the Scottish Parliament, or within a longer period that the SPCB may allow if six months is not possible.

6. Miscellaneous

| Previous Scheme Provisions | New Scheme Provisions |
|--|--|
| <p>Disability Allowances: for a Member with a disability, an allowance up to a maximum of £12,273 per session could be awarded for him/her to use in any way which the SPCB decides would be helpful to the Member in undertaking his/her work. Any Member could apply to the SPCB for an allowance to meet costs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) those incurred in making reasonable adjustments to his or her local office to accommodate a Member's employee who has a disability and/or facilitating access for disabled Members of the public; (b) providing equipment and/or parking spaces for disabled persons; (c) facilitating meetings for disabled persons by hiring (on an occasional basis) alternative office and meeting premises; and | <p>Expenses related to disability are covered by Section 6 and Section 7 of the new Scheme.</p> <p>The rules are the same as in the old scheme, including an allowance for "other services required to facilitate equal access to Members for disabled persons".</p> |

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| <p>(d) contracting sign language interpreters for meetings with Members of the public</p> | |
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