Parliamentary Bureau – Resolutions to Parliament on New Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme and New Party Leaders' Expenses Scheme

Background

1. The SPCB has a responsibility, under the Scotland Act 1998 to present a Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to Parliament under which it will pay expense provisions to Members in respect of travel and expenses or costs incurred in each financial year.

2. As part of its normal practice, the SPCB undertakes a review each session to ensure that expenses support via the various Schemes and orders remains operationally fit for purpose and continues to efficiently and effectively support members in carrying out their parliamentary duties.

3. Any proposed change to either Scheme must then be lodged before Parliament for its consideration. If the resultant resolution and the new or amended Schemes are agreed, then they come into force from the beginning of the next parliamentary session or any such other date as determined by the SPCB and detailed in the resolution.

4. The SPCB has undertaken a review of both the Members' Expenses Scheme and the Party Leaders' Expenses Scheme this session in preparation for the next session. Recommendations from both reviews were agreed by the SPCB and a new Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme and new Party Leaders' Expenses Scheme have been prepared for parliamentary consideration. The reports on both reviews were published and circulated to Members upon completion in November 2025.

5. The new Schemes and accompanying resolutions for consideration by the Parliament were agreed by the SPCB on 12 March 2026.

Request from the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

6. The SPCB has requested time in the Chamber, during the week commencing 16 March to enable the Parliament to consider the resolutions and new Schemes. It is anticipated that a short time slot (around 5 – 10 minutes maximum) immediately before Decision Time will be required.

Recommendation

7. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to note the request from the SPCB for Chamber time to consider the resolutions and new Members' Expenses and Party Leaders' Schemes, and to note that time has now been allocated in the future business programme on Thursday 19 March for this item to be taken.

Finance Directorate
March 2026