Parliamentary Bureau – Resolution to the Parliament on Amendment to Reimbursement of Members' 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. Any proposed change to the Scheme must then be lodged before Parliament for its consideration.

2. Following last year's review, the new Scheme was subsequently agreed by Parliament on 19 March 2026. Since its introduction at the start of Session 7, the SPCB has agreed one small further change to the Scheme. This relates to Members' eligibility under the Edinburgh Accommodation provision whereby the Stirling constituency is now being proposed to be split between group two and group three for eligibility purposes where previously it fully sat in group two. As any proposed change to the Scheme must be lodged before Parliament by way of Resolution, the SPCB is now requesting time in the Chamber for the motion to be considered by the Parliament. The Resolution is attached in the Annexe.

3. If the resultant Resolution and the amended Scheme is agreed, then it would come into force immediately as detailed in the Resolution.

Request from the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

4. The SPCB is requesting time in the Chamber for early consideration of the Resolution and the amended scheme by the Parliament. It is anticipated that a short time slot (5 minutes maximum) immediately before Decision Time will be required.

Recommendation

5. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to note the request from the SPCB for Chamber time to consider the Resolution and amended Members' Expenses Scheme, and to seek to accommodate the request in the future business programme.

Finance Directorate
October 2026

Annexe - Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme Resolution

That the Parliament, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 81(2) and (5)(b) and 83(5) of the Scotland Act 1998, determines that the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, which was agreed to by resolution of the Parliament on 19 March 2026 be amended as follows:

(a) In Annex A: Groups of constituencies for entitlement to accommodation in Edinburgh insert under Group two, and immediately after "Stirling" "(excluding Ward 1 Trossachs & Teith)";

(b) In Annex A: Groups of constituencies for entitlement to accommodation in Edinburgh insert under Group three, and immediately under "Shetland Islands" add "Stirling (only Ward 1 Trossachs & Teith)";