

Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill

Financial Memorandum

Introduction

1. As required under Rule 9.3.2 of the Parliament's Standing Orders, this Financial Memorandum is published to accompany the Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill, introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 24 June 2020. It has been prepared by Scottish Parliament officials on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, whose convener introduced the Bill.

2. The following other accompanying documents are published separately:

- statements on legislative competence by the Presiding Officer and the member who introduced the Bill (SP Bill 78–LC);
- Explanatory Notes (SP Bill 78–EN).

Costs on the Scottish Parliament

3. The Bill confers a power on the Scottish Parliament to make resolutions to set out the terms of funding provided to support political parties. This takes the place of the existing mechanism, which involves the making of an Order in Council. The Scottish Parliament already has responsibility for funding and administering payments to political parties so the only new cost would be the work involved in formulating and lodging a motion (setting out the terms of the proposed resolution).

4. Since the Parliament was established, there has only been one Order setting the terms of the scheme. It is therefore envisaged that resolutions in

This document relates to the Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill (SP Bill 78) as introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 24 June 2020

the future would be made infrequently. The costs of formulating and lodging a new motion is expected to be minimal and absorbed within the normal running costs of the SPCB's support service.

Costs on the Scottish administration

5. It is not anticipated that there will be any additional costs on the Scottish Administration. There will be an inconsequential saving to the Scottish Government's administrative budget as it will no longer have any responsibility for laying draft Orders in connection with party funding.

Costs on local authorities

6. There are no cost implications for local authorities.

Costs on other bodies, individuals and businesses

7. As noted above, there will be minor additional costs for the Scottish Parliament on each occasion when the scheme needs to be altered (by means of a new motion); these costs, mostly attributable to staff time, are expected to be minor and absorbed within existing budgets.

8. There are no cost implications for other bodies, individuals and businesses.

This document relates to the Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill (SP Bill 78) as introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 24 June 2020

Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Political Parties) Bill

Financial Memorandum

□ Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Information on the Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot

Produced and published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

All documents are available on the Scottish Parliament website at:
www.parliament.scot/documents