



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Additional Offices Application By Correspondence Reference: SPCB(2021)Paper 38

Executive summary

1. This paper invites the SPCB to consider an application made under Section 4 paragraph 4.2.6 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme. This provision enables the SPCB to determine, on receipt of an application, that where more than one member is returned from the same political party in Highlands and Islands, North East Scotland, South of Scotland, West Scotland or Mid-Scotland and Fife Regions, they may establish a second regional office.

Issues and options

2. Colin Smyth MSP on behalf of the Labour South of Scotland Regional Members has submitted an application to establish two offices in the South of Scotland Region. It is proposed to establish the offices in Dumfries, where a current office is already in place, and East Lothian. It is suggested that the location of the offices in Dumfries and East Lothian would provide constituents with better access, albeit not full access, to the MSPs than a single office.
3. In terms of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, the South of Scotland region is included in the list of those regions where, if more than one member is returned from a registered political party's regional list, an application can be made to the SPCB to establish an additional local office.

Governance

4. There are no governance issues.

Resource implications

5. Should the SPCB approve this application the additional funds that would require to be made available in 2021-22 total £14,651. It is confirmed that there are funds available within the overall expenses budget to meet such costs.

Publication scheme

6. This paper can be published in accordance with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Next steps

7. To inform the Member of the decision.

Decision

8. The SPCB is invited to consider this application and determine whether the Labour South of Scotland Regional Members can, as allowed under the Scheme, open a second regional office.

Allowances Office

22 June 2021