

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body By correspondence – 24 June 2026 (Session 7)

International Relations: Parliamentary travel – British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA), Steering Committee Meeting

Executive summary

1. The International Relations Office's budget is approved, as part of the overall budget proposal, by the SPCB on an annual basis. This budget is then allocated to individual visits and development opportunities by the International Relations Office, in line with the Scottish Parliament's International Strategy.
2. The Code of Conduct for MSPs requires Members to register and "provide details of visits outside the United Kingdom in certain circumstances." Some overseas visits are excluded from this requirement to register – that is when the travel and other costs of a visit are wholly met by the SPCB, or are approved by the SPCB prior to the visit, as the visit is deemed to be "parliamentary in nature".
3. This paper provides a brief summary of the upcoming visit to Dublin, Ireland by Deputy Presiding Officer, Clare Adamson MSP. The purpose of this visit is to attend a meeting of the BIPA Steering Committee and invites the SPCB to confirm that it is parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration on the Member's register of interests.
4. The SPCB is not asked to approve the travel – only the question of whether it is parliamentary in nature.

Issues and options

The Code of Conduct

5. Members are required under the Code of Conduct for MSPs to register certain overseas visits – including certain visits for political purposes and a visit which meets the 'prejudice test' ("an interest meets the prejudice test if, after taking into account all of the circumstances, that interest is reasonably considered to prejudice, or give the appearance of prejudicing the ability of the member to participate in a disinterested manner in any proceedings of the Parliament").
6. In accordance with paragraphs 62 and 64 of Section 2 of the Code of Conduct, the travel and other costs of a visit which are wholly met by

REFERENCE: SPCB (2026) - Paper 52 – by correspondence

the SPCB, or are approved by the SPCB prior to the visit, is exempt from registration as an overseas visit in the Register of Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament.

7. The purpose of this paper is therefore to invite the SPCB to agree that the visit outlined below is “parliamentary in nature” and that it is therefore exempt from needing to be registered by the Member taking part.

British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA), Steering Committee

8. A meeting of the BIPA Steering Committee will take place in Dublin, Ireland on 5-6 July 2026. The meeting will bring together the fourteen members of the Steering Committee from across the BIPA jurisdictions.
9. Following the convention established for the appointment of a Deputy Presiding Officer to lead the Scottish delegation on the BIPA, and act as its representative on the Steering Committee, the Presiding Officer proposed that Deputy Presiding Officer Clare Adamson MSP fill this position in Session 7. This was agreed by the Bureau at its meeting on 16 June 2026.
10. The most cost and time effective travel option between Scotland and Ireland is by air. The individual CO₂e footprint for flying economy class (return) to Dublin from Edinburgh is 102.08 CO₂e KG. All travel is economy class. Business class travel was not considered.
11. Steven Bell, International Relations Officer, will support the Deputy Presiding Officer at this meeting.

Publication Scheme

12. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB’s Publication Scheme.

Decision

13. The SPCB is invited to agree that the travel outlined in this paper is parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration.

International Relations Office

June 2026