

## **Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Thursday 25 June 2026 (Session 7)**

### **Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Additional Offices Applications**

#### **Executive summary**

1. This paper invites the SPCB to consider two applications made under Section 5 paragraph 5.35 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 the Highlands and Islands, North East Scotland, South Scotland, West Scotland or Mid-Scotland and Fife Regions, they may establish a second regional office.

#### **Issues and options**

2. Two applications have been received for an additional office under this provision. The first is from Stephen Kerr MSP on behalf of himself and Murdo Fraser MSP to have an additional office in Mid-Scotland and Fife Region. It is proposed that the two offices are located in Perth (current office) and Stirling (new office). There have been consistently two offices in the region in previous sessions, but these were located in Perth and Scone. The new proposal is thought to provide better access with Stirling more accessible to more constituents.
3. The second is from Senga Beresford MSP on behalf of herself, David Kirkwood MSP and James Langan MSP. The two offices are proposed to be in Biggar and Dumfries in the centre of the South Scotland region. These locations are felt to be well placed to serve constituents and in accessible locations over the region.
4. In terms of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, both the Mid-Scotland and Fife Region and the South Scotland region are 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.
5. We would recommend that these applications are reasonable and offices in different parts of each region will better support constituents and therefore should be agreed.
6. Additionally, we anticipate that several more applications for additional regional offices will be received. We would recommend that the SPCB delegate consideration of these applications where they are deemed reasonable to the Head of Travel and Expenses. Any application deemed novel or contentious would continue to be brought to the attention of the SPCB for its consideration. This will also allow Members to move as quickly as possible to secure offices rather than have to wait potentially several weeks for the next SPCB meeting.

## **Governance**

7. There are no governance issues with this matter as the Scheme permits applications to the SPCB for an additional office.

## **Resource implications**

8. Should the SPCB approve the two applications, those affected Members would receive additional funding under the office cost provision of the Scheme to allow them to pay for two offices through equal contributions. This would total an additional £36,675 compared to each group of Members sharing only one office each. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funds within the overall expenses budget to meet such costs.

## **Publication Scheme**

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

## **Next steps**

10. To inform the Members of the SPCB's decision, update their provision entitlement and support the Members in setting up their offices.

## **Decision**

11. The SPCB is invited to:
  - a. Approve the two applications for additional offices, one in Mid-Scotland and Fife Region and one in South Scotland region; and
  - b. Delegate to the Head of Travel and Expenses Office decisions on additional office applications, unless they are novel or contentious in nature in which case these will be brought to the attention of the SPCB.

**Travel and Expenses Office**  
**June 2026**