



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

International Relations: Parliamentary travel

4 May 2023

Reference: SPCB (2023) Paper 34

Executive summary

1. This paper seeks advance approval for travel and other costs associated with Stuart McMillan MSP, as the representative for the Scottish Parliament, in his role as regional representative on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) Executive Committee. This approval is sought in accordance with Section 2, paragraph 64 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, until the end of the tenure or for the remainder of the current parliamentary session, whichever comes first.
2. The paper also seeks retrospective approval for travel and other costs associated with Stuart McMillan MSP, as the representative for the Scottish Parliament, since taking up the Executive Committee post in 2018.

Background

3. The Constitution of the CPA vests in an Executive Committee the control and management of the activities and business of the Association. It consists of approximately 36 Members and is comprised of the Officers of the Association and three regional representatives from each region, (except the CPA Africa region which has six regional representatives).
4. The CPA Executive Committee meets just prior to and just after the General Assembly (which is part of the CPA Conference), to which it reports, and the CPA Executive Committee holds a second meeting in another Commonwealth country midway between General Assemblies.
5. The regional representatives hold the post for a period of time covering three CPA Conferences. All costs associated with the Executive Committee role including travel, accommodation and other expenses, are paid for by CPA.
6. In 2018 the Northern Ireland Branch held a regional representative post, however due to Stormont being suspended the post was offered on a temporary basis to the Scotland Branch. This was due to be the arrangement until

Northern Ireland was able to resume the post, but the Northern Ireland Branch was not able to take on the role again during their tenure (from the 62nd to the 65th CPA Conference).

7. Stuart McMillan MSP was selected by the Scotland Branch Executive Committee in 2018 as the alternate Executive Committee member for the CPA Northern Ireland Branch and remained in the post until the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which took place in 2022.

8. At the 65th CPA Conference the regional representative post was handed over from Northern Ireland to Scotland. Ahead of the Conference all MSPs were able to apply for the post and Stuart McMillan MSP was the successful candidate. Scotland's tenure will last from the 65th to the 68th Conference, which is likely to take place in 2025.

9. During the period 2018 to 2022, Stuart McMillan MSP attended six overseas CPA conferences:

- Executive Committee Conference, Canada, April 2019
- British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference , Guernsey, May 2019
- CPA Conference, Kampala, Uganda, September 2019
- British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference, Isle of Man, March 2022
- Executive Committee Conference, Assam, India, April 2022
- CPA Conference, Canada, August 2022

10. Since taking on the role on behalf of the Scotland Branch, Stuart McMillan MSP has attended one overseas Executive Committee Conference in Gibraltar, April 2023.

11. The International Relations Office has submitted papers to the SPCB for the British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Guernsey 2019, CPA Conference in Uganda 2019, British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Isle of Man 2022 and the CPA Conference in Canada 2022. Papers for the Executive Committee travel were not presented on the basis that all costs were met by the CPA.

Resource implications

12. Costs for travel by Members to CPA and BIMR Conferences are met from the International Relations Office's budget. As mentioned above, travel and associated costs for the Member travelling in their Executive Committee role are met by the CPA, therefore there are no costs to the SPCB associated with this paper. Approval of the travel by the SPCB means that the Member does not have to register the travel.

Publication Scheme

13. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Decision

14. The SPCB is invited to give advanced approval for travel and other costs associated with Stuart McMillan MSP, as the representative for the Scottish Parliament, in his role as regional representative on the CPA Executive Committee, in accordance with Section 2, paragraph 64 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, until the end of the tenure or for the remainder of the current parliamentary session, whichever comes first.

15. The SPCB is also invited to give retrospective approval for travel and other costs associated with Stuart McMillan MSP, as the representative for the Scottish Parliament, in his role as regional representative on the CPA Executive Committee going back to 2018.

16. The International Relations Office will then notify the Member that they do not need to register this travel.

International Relations Office

April 2023