

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

15 May 2023

Dear Convener

National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board (Gender Representation on Public Boards) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [Draft]

At the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 2 May 2023 I committed to update the Committee on how the Scottish Government is approaching remuneration of members of the National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board (NSTAB). I am pleased to explain our approach below.

Regulation 5(2) of the National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board (Scotland) Regulations 2023 provides that, “the Scottish Ministers may pay members of the Board such remuneration as the Scottish Ministers may determine appropriate”. This was informed by the consultation on the membership of NSTAB which asked whether members should be remunerated for serving on the board. 45% of respondents did not think remuneration should be offered, as most members on the board will be representatives of organisations (such as local authorities or transport operators), and as such will already be remunerated for their time by their organisation. However, 36% of respondents were of the view that remuneration should be offered to members who come from voluntary roles or the third sector and therefore will not be receiving remuneration for their time on the board.

As board membership is intended to include individuals from organisations and groups whose representative may not be in receipt of a salary from their organisation there is a socio-economic imbalance between proposed members. To remedy this, and provide greater equity between members, membership of the board will be voluntary but with an expense for time spent on the board available. It is proposed this can be claimed by members who will not be in receipt of other remuneration for their time spent on the board. This rate will be in line with similar boards, and is proposed at £194 per day for board members and £238 per day for the chairperson. This will help to support efficient and targeted expenditure of public funds, whilst also supporting equity on the board.

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Regarding other expenses, Regulation 5(3) of the National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board (Scotland) Regulations 2023 provides that, “the Scottish Ministers must pay or reimburse members of the Board any expenses which they have been reasonably incurred by them in connection with the Board’s functions”. Expenses incurred as a result of carrying out the duties of the appointment, including reasonable travel and subsistence costs and dependant carer and childcare expenses, will be reimbursed. The limits for expenses are set centrally by Transport Scotland this approach is in line with other Scottish Government sponsored boards. Board meetings are to be held virtually by default which will benefit carers and those with school age children, enabling members to work around their caring role.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART

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St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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