



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Reimbursement of Members' Expense Scheme – Disability Application

21 April 2022

Reference: SPCB (2022) Paper 30

Executive summary

1. The SPCB are invited to consider an application from a Member under the disability provision of the Members' Expenses Scheme in relation to making their local office accessible.

Issues and options

2. The Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme requires all Members' local offices to be accessible or be able to be made accessible. The Scheme includes a disability provision to enable Members to meet such costs on application to the SPCB.
3. Mr Angus Robertson MSP has now secured a local office in Edinburgh and is looking to ensure the office is accessible by making some alterations to the office. Mr Robertson is seeking SPCB approval for the costs of converting the current toilet facilities to an accessible toilet and works to ensure the kitchen facilities and internal space in the office is also accessible. No alterations are needed to the entrance as it is already accessible.
4. Mr Robertson is looking to make these accessibility improvements alongside other general improvements to the office to suit his requirements. In recognising the need for these works Mr Robertson has included the potential costs as part of his negotiations with the landlord. Whilst the landlord will not directly contribute to the immediate cost of the improvements Mr Robertson has secured a reduced rent over the period of the lease which takes account of the costs of both the accessibility related works and other general improvements over the period of the lease. The

cost of the other general works will be met from within the Members Office Cost Provision limits.

5. As required by the Scheme Mr Robertson has sought two quotes in relation to these works. The quotes for converting the accessible toilet and refitting the kitchen to meet accessibility requirements are £12,854 and £7,519 plus VAT. Mr Robertson would propose moving forward with the lower of the two quotes if the SPCB are content to approve his request.

Governance

6. The Reimbursement for Members' Expenses Scheme provides for such costs to be met on application to the SPCB.

Resource implications

7. There would be sufficient monies within the overall Members Expenses budget to meet these costs.

Publication Scheme

8. This paper can be published in line with the publication policy.

Next steps

9. To advise the Member of the SPCB's decision and if approved to move forward with the requested works.

Decision

10. The SPCB is invited to consider Mr Robertson's application to have the costs of making his office accessible as detailed in the paper met from the disability provision.

Allowances Office

12 April 2022