

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Exceptional Expenses Application 6 March 2025 Reference: SPCB (2025) Paper 17

Executive summary

1. The SPCB is invited to consider an application for exceptional expense on behalf of Emma Roddick MSP under section 8.2.1 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme.

Issues and options

2. Ms Roddick is applying to the SPCB for exceptional expenses due to an error in her provision limit leaving her in an immediate overspend position with other further planned costs anticipated before the end of the financial year. Ms Roddick's limit was loaded onto MyExpenses at the beginning of the financial year by Allowances Office but was inadvertently added as the full entitlement amount for constituency MSPs (£21,100) rather than 50% of the provision (£10,550) she is entitled to given she does not have a local office. Upon reviewing Members spend and realising this error, Allowances Office amended the limit figure to the correct amount and immediately advised Ms Roddick. SPCB will wish to note that all other Members figures have been checked and are correct.
3. Ms Roddick had been incurring costs based on the incorrect information available to her and had spent monies over the year to support her in carrying out her parliamentary duties. Allowances have apologised to Ms Roddick for the error and have worked with her to minimise the impact of the overspend on SPCB budgets to the end of the financial year and to ascertain what reasonable further expected costs would be required to allow her to continue to carry out her duties until then.
4. Looking at the current overspend of £638.26 and anticipated costs of £1653.40 for surgeries, adverts, subscriptions and staff overnight stays to

support Ms Roddick in March she is applying for exceptional expenses of £2,291.66.

5. Ms Roddick has in previous years remained within the correct provision limit and it is anticipated she would be within limits moving forward.

Governance

6. The Members' Expenses Scheme does provide for a member to apply to the SPCB for reimbursement of any exceptional expenses to be incurred by that member in connection with the performance of parliamentary duties.

Resource implications

7. It is confirmed that there are sufficient funds in the overall Members' Expenses budget to meet the costs indicated.

Publication Scheme

8. This paper can be published in line with the SPCB's publication scheme.

Next steps

9. To advise the Member of the SPCB decision and if agreed adjust provision limits appropriately to meet costs.

Decision

10. The SPCB is invited to consider the application for exceptional expense to support Ms Roddick in carrying out her parliamentary duties due to the circumstances.

Allowances Office

5 March 2025