
ALLOWANCES PAID TO MEMBERS DURING 2022/23

Briefing Note by Clerk to Council

31 May 2023

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 All Councils must publish information on Councillors' salaries, allowances and expenses paid to Members in respect of the previous financial year in a standard format on their websites by 1 June to meet the publicity requirements of the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007. This information also includes any costs for transport or subsistence which have been booked by the Council on behalf of the Councillors. At the same time, information on courses and conferences attended by Councillors is also required to be published.
- 1.2 The Regulations, as amended, specify the levels of salary, allowances and reimbursement of expenses which may be paid to local authority Elected Members. Councillors' salaries were increased by 5.2% from 1 April 2022 in accordance with The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2022 and therefore the annual amount payable to each Councillor increased from £18,604 to £19,571 per annum, unless he or she was entitled to one of the higher amounts payable to the Leader of the Council, the Convener or to Senior Councillors.
- 1.3 The number and designation of Senior Councillors in the Scheme of Remuneration was previously agreed at the meeting of Scottish Borders Council held on 25 May 2017 with subsequent changes agreed at the meetings held on 27 August 2020 and 26 May 2022. Detailed in Appendix 1 to this report is the remuneration and expenses paid to all Councillors from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Detailed in Appendix 2 is Members' attendance at training events, conferences and seminars in 2022/23.
- 1.4 Total remuneration and expenses paid to Members in 2022/23 amounted to £808,208.56, compared with a total of £736,656.06 in 2021/22. Travel expenses totalled £24,960.58 in 2022/23, compared to the 2021/22 figure of £2,661.90. The cost of Telephone and ICT Expenses in 2022/23 amounted to £4,959.21, compared to £9,332.35 in 2021/22. Mobile phone costs are now paid centrally, so it is not possible to identify the cost to individual Councillors. Members can claim a proportion of their home broadband costs rather than the Council providing a business line, and some Members have not made any claim. The overall travel expenses figure is expected to fluctuate year on year as claims are based on actual journeys made; whether claims are up to date; or whether Members have chosen not to claim expenses. Very few claims for travel were made by Councillors in 2021/22 due to Covid travel restrictions and the change to online committee meetings. These have increased in 2022/23 with the removal of restrictions and the return to in-person meetings.

- 1.5 As the format of publication of costs is prescribed, it should be noted that while the end column gives a "Total Salary and Expenses", this is the amount attributed to each Councillor and not the amount paid directly to each Councillor.

2 TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

2.1 Detailed in Appendix 2 is Members' attendance at training events, conferences and seminars in 2022/23, in the format recommended by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee. Following the local government election in May 2022, all members were invited to Induction training with attendance for those sessions included in the In-house training section. The Induction Programme, which took place from May through to November 2023, comprised 21 separate sessions:

- Welcome to the Council and Key Practical Points
- Governance
- Council Plan: Fulfilling Our Potential
- Council Plan: Empowered, Vibrant Communities
- Council Plan: Strong Inclusive Economy, Transport & Infrastructure
- Child-Adult Protection Awareness & Overview of Planning System
- Statutory Planning System (for Members of the Planning & Building Standards Committee and the Local Review Body)
- Council Plan: Good Health & Wellbeing
- Council Plan: Clean Green Future
- Social Work Services
- Civic Government Licensing & Alcohol Licensing (for Members of the Civic Government Licensing Committee and the Licensing Board)
- Council Plan: Working Together, Improving Lives
- Partnerships
- Finance & Budgeting
- Dementia Friends Training
- Common Good Funds & Investments
- Looked After Children, Corporate Parenting and The Promise
- Staffing Appeals, Disciplinary & Grievance policies
- IT Security training
- Fire & Safety Service
- Police Plans

2.2 Members are also invited to attend a number of online briefing sessions throughout the year. Attendance at these is not included in the training/conference Appendix. Eleven such sessions were held during 2022/23 and they covered –

- National Care Service Consultation
- Bus Services update
- Garages to Homes Care Service and Crisis in Care
- Drivers Recruitment/Retention
- Public (Adult & Child) Protection
- Saltgreens update and Menopause policy
- Live Borders update; 20mph speed limits update; Road repairs/equipment; and winter maintenance
- Inclusion; Digital transformation – Digital Customer Access project; Digital transformation in Social Care
- Demand Responsive Transport
- Cycling World Championships and Local Government Benchmarking Framework

- Community Pay Back Unpaid Work; Walk It annual Report 21/22; and RSL property conditions
- Attendance at these briefing sessions is not included as part of training events.

2.3 Members also undertake specific/refresher training related to committees e.g. Audit, Planning & Building Standards, etc. on an ongoing basis and this tends to be carried out in-house where there is no direct cost. This is not recorded separately and not therefore included in the appendix.

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jenny Wilkinson	Clerk to the Council 01835 825004
Gary Alexander	HRSS Business Partner 01835 826717

Background Papers: Members Travel Claims; Invoices

Previous Reference: Briefing Note, 30 May 2022