
ALLOWANCES PAID TO MEMBERS DURING 2021/22

Briefing Note by Clerk to Council

30 May 2022

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 4.2% from 1 April 2021 in accordance with The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2021 and therefore the annual amount payable to each Councillor increased from £17,854 to £18,604 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 meeting held on 27 August 2020. Detailed in Appendix 1 to this report is the remuneration and expenses paid to all Councillors from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Detailed in Appendix 2 is Members' attendance at training events, conferences and seminars in 2021/22.
- 1.4 Total remuneration and expenses paid to Members in 2021/22 amounted to £736,656.06, compared with a total of £686,531.20 in 2020/21. Travel expenses totalled £2,661.90 in 2021/22, compared to the 2020/21 figure of £1,598.85. The cost of Telephone and ICT Expenses in 2021/22 amounted to £9,332.35, compared to £7,866.08 in 2020/21. 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. Due to Covid travel restrictions and the change to online committee meetings, very few claims for travel were made by Councillors in 2020/21 although these increased a little in 2021/22.
- 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 2021/22, in the format recommended by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee. Due to Covid restrictions and the lead up to the election, very few training and conference events were held. Councillors do undertake specific/refresher training related to committees e.g. Audit, Planning and Building Standards, etc. on an ongoing basis and this tends to be carried out in-house so there is no direct cost. Where this training takes place as part of the business of committee, it is not recorded separately and not therefore included in the appendix.
- 2.2 Members are also invited to attend a number of online briefing sessions throughout the year. Eight sessions were held during 2021/22 and they included updates on Climate Route Map, Anti-Poverty Strategy, Budget planning, Tree Policy, Council Plan, Local Development Plan, South of Scotland Enterprise plans and priorities, etc. Attendance at the briefing sessions is not included as part of training events.

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Background Papers: Members Travel Claims; Invoices

Previous Reference: Briefing Note, 15 June 2021