

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR MEMBERS TO TRAVEL TO DUBLIN AND PARIS**

### **Nature of request**

1. As required under Rule 12.10 of Standing Orders, Bureau approval is sought for the CPPP Committee to travel to Dublin on 27 – 28 February, and Paris on 10 -11 March. It is intended that three members of the Committee, if available, and one clerk, one SPICe researcher, and member of PACT will undertake each visit which would run from Monday – Tuesday for Dublin, and Friday – Saturday for Paris.
2. Approval has been sought separately from the Conveners' Group, which considered and granted the request on 25 January 2023.

### **Justification/benefit**

3. The Committee is undertaking an inquiry looking at the ways in which people's voices are heard in the work of Parliament. A key theme of the evidence gathered so far has been the use of deliberative approaches, such as citizen's assemblies, as positive tools to encourage public engagement in the work of Parliament. In considering this evidence, the Committee agreed that there would be benefit in undertaking visits to jurisdictions that have institutionalised deliberative approaches.
4. The ability to observe citizens' deliberations in person and explore how the models operate in practice is considered a valuable use of Members time as they reflect on the recommendations from the Citizens' Panel on Participation in the Scottish Parliament, consider how deliberative processes might also be developed in Scotland and begin to form recommendations for Scottish Parliament action.
5. In Ireland, five separate Citizen Assemblies have been convened on issues including the constitution, gender equality, biodiversity loss, and the model of local government in Dublin. With two Citizen Assemblies having recently concluded, the Committee will have the opportunity to meet with Members from both Houses of the Irish Parliament, on 28 February, to explore how their committees respond to recommendations of the citizens' assemblies. The Committee will also meet with the Secretariat of the Citizens' Assemblies to discuss how this model has been developed and institutionalised in Ireland. This is a timely opportunity to discover how the citizen assembly model can be reviewed and adapted with each panel of participants.
6. In Paris, a permanent citizens' assembly has been established, which decides on a topic for the annual participatory budget programme. The next meeting of the Paris Citizens' Assembly is due to take place on 11 March 2023. This would coincide with our visit and represents an invaluable opportunity to see how this works in practice.

7. It is anticipated that three Committee Members will attend each visit, and report back to the wider committee. It is also considered there is value in staff representing the clerking, SPICe and PACT teams to accompany Members on these visits. This will allow staff to gain a fuller understanding of the level of support parliamentarians and citizen assembly participants require when implementing the various models and aspects of deliberative democracy.

### Background

8. The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee has been [investigating public participation in the Scottish Parliament](#). The Committee published its [interim report](#) on 16 December 2022. This contains a summary of the evidence received by the Committee and the [recommendations of the Citizen's Panel on public Participation](#) in the Scottish Parliament. The Citizens' Panel were responding to the question: How can the Scottish Parliament ensure that diverse voices and communities from all parts of Scotland influence our work?
9. The Committee is now seeking views on the recommendations, externally and across the Parliament via [Your Priorities](#) closing on 10 February.
10. The Committee plans to report its recommendations to Parliament in May, ahead of a Chamber debate on its report later this year.

### Potential programme

11. It is recognised that the visit to Dublin is expected to take place on a day when the Chamber is sitting, and time is being set aside in the programme to enable Members to vote remotely, if required, at Decision Time, and not be otherwise engaged on business associated with the visit at that time.
12. The Committee's programme is still being finalised, but meetings are expected to include:

#### Dublin 28 February

- Discussions with members of the Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality to explore their consideration of the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality.
- Meeting with Ceann Comhairle to discuss Citizens' Panel recommendations
- Meet with Members of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions to explore shared areas of interest
- Meet with Secretary to the Citizens' Assemblies, and participants of previous citizens' assemblies.

#### Paris 10 – 11 March

##### Day 1 - Friday

- Welcome meeting

- Meet with participants of Citizens' Assembly
- Informal meetings with parliamentarians and researchers

#### Day 2 – Saturday

- Observe Citizens' Assembly deliberations
- Informal meetings with the secretariat to the Citizens Assembly

### Travel and costs

13. Costings have been estimated for each individual visit, travelling by air. Visits will take place over weekends or at the beginning of the week to limit Member's time away from the parliamentary estate as Members are likely to be able to travel over Friday to Mondays.

14. The option to travel by rail/ferry has been assessed and costed. This would require an extended period of time away from the parliamentary estate and Members would require approval to miss significantly more Chamber business. The cost of travel by rail/ferry is comparable to air, but additional accommodation and meal requirements would add a minimum additional £4000 cost to undertake all visits.

15. The anticipated costs for the visits are set out below, and will be met from 2022/23 budgets.

<b>Costs</b>	<b>£</b>
Return Air Travel Edinburgh to Dublin (6 people)	1,192
Return Air Travel Edinburgh to Paris (6 people)	2,285
Overnight Accommodation for 1 night x 6 people (Dublin)	1,320
Overnight Accommodation for 1 night x 6 people (Paris)	1,320
Airport Transfers (Dublin & Paris)	245
Airport parking (Edinburgh)	240
Incidental travel (taxi between meetings)	175
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,777</b>

### Decision

16. **The Committee seeks the Bureau's approval for travel to Dublin and Paris, and for the associated expenditure as detailed in Annexe A.**

**CPPP Committee Clerks  
January 2023**

## Annexe A

**Visit to Paris**

<b>Travel</b>	<b>£</b>
6 Economy Flights Edinburgh to Paris CDG	2284.50
Airport taxi transfer	190
Edinburgh Airport parking	120
Incidental travel (between meetings)	100
<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>2694.50</b>

**Expenses**

Hotel incl. breakfast	196/night
<i>1 x overnight allowance for 6 people</i>	<i>1,320</i>
<b>Paris subtotal</b>	<b>4014.50</b>

**Visit to Dublin**

<b>Travel</b>	<b>£</b>
6 Economy Flights Edinburgh to Dublin	1191.30
Airport taxi transfer	55
Edinburgh Airport parking	120
Incidental travel (between meetings)	75
<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>1441.30</b>

**Expenses**

Hotel incl. breakfast	138/night
<i>6 x overnight allowance for 5 people</i>	<i>1,320</i>
<b>Dublin subtotal</b>	<b>2761.30</b>

**Total for 2 visits** **£6,775.80**

**All costs to be incurred in current financial year**

**Cost Codes**

Committee Travel	Cost
SP414030	£4,137

Committee Expenses	
SP414035	£2,640