

SPICe Briefing

Parliamentary Pay and Expenses

19 November 2009

09/83

Murray Earle

This briefing provides an outline of the system of parliamentary pay and expenses in the Scottish Parliament. It gives data on expenditure against allowances for 2008-09 and parliamentary pay for 2009-10. The Briefing provides comparative information on salaries in the UK Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the European Parliament. It also provides information on the financial assistance available to certain political parties. It updates SB 09-06 Parliamentary Pay and Expenses 2007-08 and Pay and Expense Rates 2008-09. It includes information on:

- Reimbursement of expenses in the Scottish Parliament
- Party Leaders Allowances
- Financial assistance for non-executive parties
- Allowances rates in the UK Parliament
- Total allowances expenditure in the Scottish Parliament for 2008-09
- Salaries for MSPs, officers of the Parliament and Ministers
- Salaries in other parliaments and assemblies



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(SB 09/83)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Background

The Scottish Parliament has made provision for a variety of expenses to be reimbursed to MSPs on the basis of expenditure incurred. The current Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme came into effect on 1 October 2008, following the [Allowances Review](#) chaired by Sir Alan Langlands.

The Scottish Parliament Party Leaders' Allowances Scheme provides for reimbursement of specified expenses incurred by a leader of a political party with 15 or more members represented in the Parliament. Leaders of parliamentary parties whose party contains members of the Executive do not qualify for the scheme.

Financial assistance is available to non-executive political parties in the Scottish Parliament to assist their members in the performance of their parliamentary duties. Eligibility for the scheme depends on being a registered political party and on members of the party not holding more than a specified number of ministerial or junior ministerial posts. The Scottish National Party, as the executive part is currently not eligible for this assistance.

Information on individual Members' Expenses claims in respect of the last three financial years (2006-07 to 2008-09) can be retrieved from the Scottish Parliament web site. Claim information and receipts are available for the 2005-06 financial year. A breakdown and analysis of expenditure on allowances is set out in this briefing.

In the 2008-09 financial year the total costs reimbursed to or paid on behalf of Members, or borne by the SPCB on behalf of Members were £10.956 million. This represented an increase of £0.877 million or 8.7% on the previous year's corresponding figure of £10.080 million. In the same period RPI decreased by 0.4%.

Scheme	2008-09	2007-08	Change	
Allowances and Expenditure	£10,439,876	£9,688,681	£751,195	7.8%
Party Leaders' Allowance	£39,397	£27,193	£12,204	44.9%
Office Supplies	£476,931	£363,743	£113,118	31.1%
Totals	£10,956,204	£10,079,617	£876,587	8.7%

The current annual salary of a Member of the Scottish Parliament is £56,671. Ministers and Officeholders receive a further salary in addition to their MSP salary. MSPs' salaries are reviewed on 1 April of each year to maintain those salaries at 87.5% of the salary payable to Members of the House of Commons. MPs and MEPs receive a basic annual salary of £64,766. Members of the National Assembly for Wales receive £53,108 and Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly receive a basic annual salary of £43,101. Additional salary entitlements are paid to Officeholders and ministers in all these legislatures.

EXPENSES

BACKGROUND

It is for the Scottish Parliament to determine the levels of, and arrangements for, the reimbursement of Members' expenses. From 8 June 2006, the Parliament enabled public access to the claims made by individual MSPs under the Parliament's Expenses Scheme, through a web-based [searchable database](#). The data represent actual amounts claimed from the maxima as set out in Table 4.

REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

In June 2007, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body announced that there would be a full scale review of parliamentary allowances. The [Allowances Review Panel](#) that was set up to conduct the review published its report on 11 March 2008. The [Panel website](#) (Scottish Parliament 2007a) contains information including details of [the panel](#) itself, [background materials and news releases](#), and the [public call for evidence](#). The [remit of the review](#) covered the three main allowance categories, that is the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme and the Equipment and Furniture Scheme. The review fed into the arrangements for the current scheme, which was based on a resolution of Parliament. These were discussed in greater detail in SPICe Briefing 09-06 [Parliamentary Pay and Expenses 2007-08 and Pay and Expense Rates 2008-09](#). (Earle 2009) The new scheme came into effect on 1 October 2008. The categories of allowable expenses are set out in Table 1 and expenses limits are set out in Table 4, below.

EXPENSES CATEGORIES

TABLE 1: SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES SCHEME

1. ACCOMMODATION

The scheme provisions are set out in [Section 2](#) of the Expenses Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008). Both rented and overnight accommodation are covered and transitional provisions will continue to allow mortgage interest to be claimed until March 2011. An allowance for overnight accommodation in Edinburgh is payable to Members whose main residence lies within a constituency set out in Group 2 of [Annex A](#) to the Scheme. Members whose main residence is in a constituency within Group 3 are entitled to reimbursement of the cost of either overnight accommodation or leasing accommodation in Edinburgh. The latter covers:

- rent
- council tax and water charges
- factoring charges, but excluding common repair costs
- utility costs and telecommunications costs, and
- contents insurance.

Members who already have a residence in Edinburgh are not allowed to claim for the cost of accommodation in Edinburgh, although members whose main residence lies in Groups 2 or 3 of [Annex A](#) and who also have a residence in Edinburgh, may apply to the SPCB for reimbursement of the cost of overnight accommodation in Edinburgh. This will be reimbursed only if it would not be reasonable in all the circumstances to expect the member to use that other residence in connection with the performance of parliamentary duties. If the other residence is used in connection with parliamentary duties the member may apply to the SPCB for reimbursement of the costs in respect of that other residence.

Members may be reimbursed for accommodation outside Edinburgh, but within the United Kingdom or Brussels or Strasbourg, that is required in connection with performance of parliamentary duties, where the member is prevented by those duties from using their own residence. This does not include the performance of parliamentary duties within the constituency or region, unless the member has been returned from one of the constituencies or regions listed in [Annex B](#) or for Members returned for Cunninghame North or the Western Isles, where the requirement arises on an island in the Cunninghame North constituency.

2. STAFFING AND OFFICE COSTS

Staff Employment

The Scheme provisions in respect of employment of staff are set out in [Section 3](#) of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008).

Members may engage staff on a full time, part time, contractual or agency basis, and by permanent or temporary arrangement. The expense covers salary and national insurance contributions, temporary staff cover costs, incidental and ancillary employment costs and redundancy costs. Staff may not, however, undertake significant party political activity during any hours of work which are included within claims submitted under this allowance.

The SPCB provides a payroll service, arranges for employer's pension contributions to be paid to an employee's choice of pension scheme and processes any other benefits deemed appropriate. However, members may submit claims in respect of an employee only if the employee is employed on terms which are no less favourable than the model terms and conditions of employment approved by the SPCB from time to time.

Staff salary costs may be reimbursed up to the maximum as set out in Table 5, below (£58,700). This figure includes redundancy costs, overtime payments and gross annual salary or salaries and incidental costs arising in the case of pooled staff.

National Insurance employer's contributions may be reimbursed, as can pension contribution, the latter to a maximum of 10% of the employee's gross annual salary.

The engagement of temporary staff cover for absences of more than two weeks must be accompanied by adequate medical certificates and other relevant documents. Costs reimbursed may include gross salary, national insurance contributions and pension contributions.

Incidental costs that may be reimbursed include the cost of recruitment, as well as the attendance of staff members at conferences, training and travel and overnight accommodation associated with these.

Redundancy costs will be reimbursed only if the SPCB is satisfied that the member was entitled to be reimbursed for staff salary costs, the employee was dismissed by reason of redundancy, the member was under legal obligation to make the payment and under the contract of employment the employee's entitlement to a redundancy payment exceeds the employee's statutory entitlement

Where claims under this section are made in respect of the employment of a close family member, the nature of the relationship must be declared to the SPCB. This must be in writing, accompanied by such documented information as the SPCB might require. The SPCB must publish all such declarations in a register which is open to public inspection.

Office Costs

The provisions are set out in [Section 4](#) of the Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008). Members are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable office costs, which includes the costs of:

- (a) establishing and running a local parliamentary office, such as leasing and utility costs;
- (b) purchase or lease of office furniture or equipment (including IT or photocopying equipment) or the purchase of stationery;
- (c) telecommunications
- (d) publication and distribution of newsletters, annual reports and surveys;
- (e) the cost of advertising and the cost of surgery advertising, in so far as the cost of surgery advertising exceeds the limit on entitlement
- (f) the cost of overnight accommodation for members of staff required to accompany a member for the purpose of assisting the member in the performance of parliamentary duties;
- (g) the hire of premises for surgeries, public meetings and other meetings with constituents;
- (h) the fees for a member attending a seminar or conference; and
- (i) any other costs which are ancillary to those specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) above.

Members may establish and run local parliamentary offices in the constituency for which they were returned. In such a case, the office may not be used for party political purposes. Constituency members are entitled to reimbursement of office costs of the constituency office. Further rules apply to particular cases such as where a single regional member is returned from a registered political party's regional list or where there is a regional member not aligned to any political party. And where in a particular region more than one member is returned from a registered political party's regional list, those members are entitled between them only to reimbursement of office costs in respect of one regional office. The SPCB may determine that additional reimbursements may be made in respect of regional offices. The entitlements are set out in the following table (rounded up to the nearest £100).

Number of Regional Members	Percentage of Limit on Office Costs Applicable to a Single Regional Member	
	One Office in the Region (limit per member)	Two Offices in the Region (limit per member)
2	60%	100%
3	47%	80%
4	40%	65%
5	36%	56%

If a member leases or sublets their local parliamentary office to or from a family member, they will not be entitled to reimbursement. If they sublet to any other person they will be reimbursed for their cost less the income received. If the office is leased from a party political organisation, the member must submit a report to the SPCB prepared by a surveyor, indicating a fair market rent for the premises which will form the basis for reimbursement. Similar arrangements apply to a sublease.

Members who do not establish and run a local parliamentary office in the constituency or region to which they were elected, or where the member uses an office in the Parliament as a local parliamentary office, they will be entitled only to reimbursement of office costs up to a maximum amount of 50% of the maximum entitlement.

Members who work from home are not entitled to reimbursement other than the cost of telecommunications.

Surgery advertising, including the publication of office opening hours and the production of leaflets, may be reimbursed.

3. TRAVEL

The provisions are set out in [Section 5](#) of the Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008). A member is entitled to reimbursement of the cost of travel:

- (a) undertaken in the performance of parliamentary duties within the UK or
- (b) to Brussels or Strasbourg for meetings with members of the European Parliament and/or with representatives of European Union Institutions in connection with members' parliamentary duties.

The entitlement may include travel between places at which parliamentary duties were carried out and overnight accommodation, but not the cost of travel between the member's property paid for under the accommodation provision, and the Parliament.

Travel undertaken by members' staff may be reimbursed where it is done in support of the member in fulfilment of the latter's parliamentary duties. The entitlement is limited to the cost of a maximum of 74 journeys per member in any financial year. Claims must be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the journeys. A 'journey' comprises all such travel completed within one day, but does not include daily commuting journeys by a member of staff to a normal place of work.

4. PARTY LEADERS' PROVISION

The [Party Leaders' Allowance Scheme](#) remained unchanged following the Review. It applies to those party leaders of registered political parties with not less than 15 MSPs, but excludes the leader of any party which has a Scottish Minister or Junior Minister amongst its members (Scottish Parliament 2002a, Part A, rule 1). Thus, in the current parliamentary session (2007-2011), the leaders of the Scottish Labour Party, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible, but not the leaders of the Scottish National Party or the Scottish Green Party. Entitlement in respect of a registered political party with fifteen but not more than twenty nine members is £13,591 and in respect of a registered political party with thirty or more members it is £25,907.

The Party Leaders' allowance may be used for:

- the employment of staff
- necessary office accommodation costs
- office equipment and furniture
- travel and overnight expenses of the member and his or her staff. Travel can be within Scotland and the UK, to Brussels/Strasbourg or elsewhere outside the United Kingdom, for meetings as part of the

duties of a Parliamentary party leader or, in the case of staff, assisting with those duties. The SPCB must authorise in advance the travel expenses of staff members for travel outside the United Kingdom.

There is no additional salary or allowance in the Scottish Parliament for parties' business managers (whips). Additional salary entitlements are paid to government and opposition whips and deputy whips in the United Kingdom Parliament, as set out in Table 9, below.

5. WINDING UP

The provisions are set out in [Section 8](#) of the Scheme (Scottish Parliament 2008). On the date when a member ceases to be a Member of the Scottish Parliament, for whatever reason, they are entitled to have the expenses reimbursed. On or after that date the other sections of the expenses scheme continue to apply where they relate to expenses already incurred or commitments made prior to that date and will continue to apply in respect of the costs of winding up the member's office.

A former member remains entitled to reimbursement of staff salary costs, employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions, so as to retain their staff for the purposes of winding up, for a maximum period of three months after the date on which they ceased to be a member. Where a member of staff is dismissed for reasons of redundancy, that staff member is entitled to any redundancy payment, subject to the same conditions as set out in section 2, above.

In respect of office winding up costs, a former member is entitled to reimbursement of the costs reasonably incurred in the closing down of a local parliamentary office subject to a limit equivalent to one third of the limit on entitlement to reimbursement of office costs which would otherwise have been applicable to that former member (i.e. one third of £15,600 = £5,200). Staff redundancy costs are met centrally by the SPCB. The time limit for submission of claims is six months from the date on which the member ceased to be a member of the Scottish Parliament, or within a longer period that the SPCB may allow if six months is not possible.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

The disability provision is covered by [Section 6](#) and [Section 7](#) of the Scheme. The rules are the same as in the previous scheme, including provision for "other services required to facilitate equal access to members for disabled persons".

Further Review

On [5 June 2009](#), it was announced that there would be an Independent Examination carried out on Holyrood's Expenses Scheme, under Sir Neil McIntosh. While this may cover any aspect of the scheme, the focus is likely to be on whether the key elements of the scheme could be expected to continue to command public confidence and are fair to Members in undertaking their Parliamentary duties. In addition, "account should be taken of any proposals emerging from the reviews of allowances elsewhere in the United Kingdom which are considered relevant to Scotland."

"Sir Neil [has been] asked to make recommendations to the Scottish Parliament before the end of 2009." (Scottish Parliament 2009)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 'NON-EXECUTIVE' PARTIES

Section 97 of the Scotland Act 1998 provides for an Order in Council to allow the SPCB to provide [assistance for opposition parties](#) by making payments to registered political parties in the Parliament "for the purpose of assisting members of the Parliament who are connected with such parties to perform their Parliamentary duties." A party does not generally qualify if any MSP connected with it is also a Minister, but some flexibility is built in under s97(3)-(4) to take account, for example, of parties where only one MSP holds a ministerial post.

Under the UK Statutory Instrument, the *Scottish Parliament (Assistance for Registered Political Parties) Order 1999* (the 'Assistance Order', SI 1999/1745), to be eligible, a party may have no more Ministers or Junior Ministers than one fifth of the total number of Ministers and Junior

Ministers within the Scottish Executive. An eligible party is entitled to an annual sum based on the number of members of the Parliament who are connected to the party, and the Assistance Order makes provision for annual up-rating of this sum.

Table 2 shows the amounts eligible parties actually claimed in the period 2008-09. The annual entitlement per seat was £6,453.01. It indicates a combined spending of £1,425.95 below the allocated amounts.

Table 2: Financial Assistance to Non-Executive Parties: 2008-09 (£)

Eligible party	Seats	Total Eligible amount	Amounts claimed
Scottish Labour Party	46	296,838.46	296,838.46
Scottish Liberal Democrats	16	103,248.16	103,185.53
Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party	17	109,701.17	109,701.12
Scottish Green Party	2	12,906.02	11,542.75
Totals	81	522,693.81	521,267.86

Table 3 shows the amounts eligible political parties are entitled to claim for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. The entitlement of £6,453.01 per seat for 2008-09 was unchanged from the previous year as the Retail Price Index was negative (0.4%) so that the entitlement per member remained at £6,453.01 for 2009-10.

Table 3: Non-Executive Party Entitlements: 2009-10

Party	Seats	Eligible amount
Scottish National Party	N/A	-
Scottish Labour Party	46	£296,838.46
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party	17	£109,701.17
Scottish Liberal Democrats	16	£103,248.16
Scottish Green Party	2	£12,906.02
Totals	81	£522,693.81

For further information on the funding of political parties, which is a matter reserved to Westminster, see House of Commons Research Paper 08/74 The Political Parties and Elections Bill (House of Commons Library 2008).

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE SCHEME

Separate arrangements have been made for the provision of equipment, furniture and office supplies to Members, as these are not claimed against expenses. Equipment and furniture is procured for Members' use, but remains the property of the SPCB. These items fell under the Members' Support Allowance, which included provision of staff costs. Under the new scheme, equipment and furniture is provided centrally. The changes are set out in Table 1, above, and the relevant amounts in Tables 4 and 5, below. Individual [Members Costs & Expenditure for Equipment and Furniture Scheme](#) is set out on the Parliament's web site. Total expenditure on equipment and furniture for 2007-08 is set out in Table 6, below.

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES RATES

Table 4 indicates expenses and provisions limits for the current financial year. This supersedes tables 7 & 8 in SPICe Briefing 09-06 [Parliamentary Pay and Expenses 2007-08 and Pay and Expense Rates 2008-09](#) (Earle 2009) which together set out the applicable rates in the 2008-09 financial year. In that year two tables were required due to a mid-year change-over in the allowances scheme following the review described in SB 09-06.

Table 4: [Expenses and Provisions Limits 2009-10](#) (maxima):

Expense	Rate	Scheme Paragraph & Description
Office Cost	£15,700	4.2.3 & 4.2.4: Annual limit on entitlement to reimbursement of office costs for a constituency member, single regional member or for a non-aligned regional member
Staff Cost	£58,700	3.2.1: Annual limit on entitlement to reimbursement of staff salary costs
Surgery Advertising	£1,562	4.6.1: Annual limit on entitlement to reimbursement of surgery advertising costs
Telecommunications	£1,185	4.5.1: Annual limit on entitlement to reimbursement of telecommunications costs
Edinburgh Accommodation		
Annual Provision	£12,000	2.1.7: Annual limit on entitlement to reimbursement of overnight accommodation or leased accommodation in Edinburgh
Overnight Rate	Up to £134	
Overnight Expenses		
Overnight Rate	Up to £157 (London, Strasbourg & Brussels)*	9.1.1: Overnight accommodation in Greater London, Brussels or Strasbourg
	Up to £134 (elsewhere)*	9.1.1: Overnight Accommodation in UK (excluding Greater London)
	As determined by SPCB (outside UK, Strasbourg & Brussels)	9.1.1: Overnight accommodation elsewhere outside UK
Office Cost Winding Up		
Constituency Member	£5,233	
Regional Member	1/3 of Office Cost Provision	
Staff Cost Winding Up	Member should contact the Human Resources Office for details	
Members Travel		
Motor Mileage	40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed	
	25p per mile for every mile over 10,000 claimed	
Motor Cycle	24p per mile	
Pedal Cycle	20p per mile	
Staff Travel		
No. of journeys	74 journeys	
Motor Mileage Rate	40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed	
	25p per mile for every mile over 10,000 claimed	

* The overnight allowance is to meet the cost of bed, breakfast, evening meal and refreshments. Alcohol costs will not be reimbursed except when taken with a meal up to a maximum limit of £8 but within the overall overnight rate.

PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES RATES 2008-09

Allowance and expense rates for 2008-09 are presented below in two tables. Table 5a shows rates which operated for the first half of the financial year (1 April to 30 September 2008) under the previous Allowances Scheme and table 5b gives the rates which operate under the new Scheme, effective from 1 October 2008.

Table 5a: Allowances and Expenses Rates 1 April to 30 September 2008

Members' Support	£63,100
Edinburgh Accommodation	
Annual Allowance	£11,900
Overnight Rate	Up to £114.98 per night*
Support Fund – Employees and Contingencies	
Surgery Advertising – Full Year	£1,519
Telephone Line Rental	£816
Telephone Line Conversion	£367
Exceptional Needs and Overnight Expenses	
Overnight Rate	£127.87 (London)*
	£102.85 (elsewhere)*
Disability Allowance	
Members Support	£12,672 per Parliamentary Session
Employee/Constituency Office	SPCB to determine on application
Translation & Interpretation Limit	£208
Winding up	
Constituency Member	£21,033
Regional Member	1/3 of Members Support Allowance
Members' Travel	
Motor Mileage	49.3p per mile
Motor Cycle	24p per mile
Pedal Cycle	20p per mile
Employee travel	
No of journeys	74 journeys
Motor Mileage Rate	40p per mile
Family travel	
Journeys per family Member per year	12 single journeys

* to meet the cost of bed, breakfast, evening meal and refreshments (alcohol only if taken with a meal up £8)

Table 5b: [Expenses and Provisions Limits](#) 1 October 2008 – 31 March 2009

Office Cost Provision	£15,600*
Staff Cost Provision	£56,650
Accommodation in Edinburgh	
Annual Provision	£11,900
Overnight Rate	Up to £133.87
Overnight Expenses	
Overnight Rate	Up to £156.36 (London, Strasbourg, Brussels)
	Up to £133.87 (elsewhere)
	As determined by SPCB (Outside UK, Strasbourg & Brussels)
Office Cost Winding Up Provision	
Constituency Member	£5,200
Regional Member	1/3 of Office Cost Provision
Staff Cost Winding Up Provision	Members contact Human Resources Office for details
Members Travel Provision	
Motor Mileage	40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed
	25p per mile for each mile over 10,000 claimed
Motor Cycle	24p per mile
Pedal Cycle	20p per mile
Staff Travel Provision	
No of journeys	74 journeys
Motor Mileage Rate	40p per mile for first 10,000 miles claimed
	25p per mile for each mile over 10,000 claimed
Telecommunications	£1,183
Surgery advertising	£1,560

* Regional Members will be advised of their Office Cost Provision on an individual basis

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2007-08 AND 2008-09

In Table 6, below, data have been provided for actual expenses expenditure for all four quarters of the 2008-09 financial year, which were subject to expenditure limits for that year. In 2008-09 the total costs reimbursed to or paid on behalf of Members, or borne by the SPCB on behalf of Members were £10.956 million. This represented an increase of £877,000 or 8.7% on the previous year's corresponding figure of £10.080 million.

Table 6: Allowances Expenditure (£)

Scheme	2008-09	2007-08	Change	
Allowances and Expenditure	£10,439,876	£9,688,681	£751,195	7.8%
Party Leaders' Allowance	£39,397	£27,193	£12,204	44.9%
Office Supplies	£476,931	£363,743	£113,188	31.1%
Totals	£10,956,204	£10,079,617	£876,587	8.7%

The above figures include staff costs not identified in the individual MSP data. Further details of individual MSP allowances and categories of allowance are provided on the [MSP Allowances](#) section of the Scottish Parliament website. As from 1 October 2008, the Furniture & Equipment scheme ceased to be in existence and information on Furniture & Equipment held by Members is contained in an Asset Register held by the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body, to be published separately. The 2007-08 figure for office supplies has therefore been re-stated to exclude furniture and equipment.

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT EXPENDITURE

A breakdown of expenditure under the Allowances Scheme is provided in the [SPICe User Guide to the Allowances Search engine](#). Further [details on the expenditure of each MSP](#) are available through the Parliament's website.

The following information is therefore at an aggregate level only:

- Details of salary, pension and national insurance contributions of Members' employees in 2008-09 was £7,320,695 (2007-08: £6,744,798). The 2007-08 figure includes expenditure of £695,479.24 on salary, pension and national insurance contributions under the winding up allowance.
- Expenditure on office supplies was £476,931.29 (2007-08: £363,743.50). This constituted an increase of 31.12% on the previous year's figure. This expense is now capped at £5,500 per Member per year.
- Total expenditure on childcare vouchers for 2008-09 was £37,453.42 (2007-08: £39,884.66).
- Total security related expenditure for 2008-09 was £8,021.50 (2007-08: £8,083.89).

All other expenditure under the Allowances Scheme and detailed for individual MSPs is available on the [Members Expenses Scheme](#) section of the Scottish Parliament website. The individual MSP data is organised by "claim month". The first date appearing in any claim will determine under which month the whole claim appears. For example, if a claim covering January, February and March is submitted, the "claim month" will be shown as January. An [Allowances Search User Guide](#) is available on the Parliament's web site.

ALLOWANCES RATES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT

Although this briefing concentrates on United Kingdom legislatures, information on other countries may be sought from the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) (CPA). The CPA has published *Commonwealth Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances 2000-2001*, *Survey of Remuneration paid to Members of the Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth, 2004-2005* and *Survey of Facilities and Services Available to Commonwealth Parliamentarians, 2002-2003* (the last of these covers allowances such as Members Support Allowance).

For more information on allowances available to Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords see the House of Commons Library Research Paper 04/40 [Parliamentary Pay and Allowances](#) (House of Commons Library 2004), the House of Commons Information Office [Factsheet](#) (House of Commons Information Office 2004), the House of Commons Library Research Paper 06/47 [Parliamentary pay and allowances](#) (which replaces Research Paper 05/42) and House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/4192 [Parliamentary pay and allowances – update](#). Pension provision for Members' staff is made by Group Stakeholder Arrangement.

Salary rates for Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including those of Ministers and Officeholders, have been set out in tables 9 and 10 below. Allowance rates have been set out in Table 7, below.

Table 7: Summary of Current Rates: House of Commons (2009-10):

	Staffing Expenditure entitlement: £103,812 (maximum)
Administrative and Office Expenditure (AOE)	£22,393
IT equipment (centrally provided)	[worth circa £3,000]
Pension provision for Members' staff	Group Stakeholder Arrangement
London Costs Allowance	£7,500
Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure (PAAE)	£24,222
Communications Expenditure	£10,400
Winding up Allowance	£42,068 (max - one third of Staffing Expenditure plus AOE)
Car Mileage	40p per mile - first 10,000 miles 25p per mile - over 10,000 miles
Motorcycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle allowance	20p per mile

SALARIES

STATUTORY PROVISION

Details of initial salaries set by the Senior Salaries Review Body and the enabling statutory provision for Scotland have been set out in [SB 07-09 Parliamentary Pay and Allowances](#) (Earle 2007), parts of which have been summarised below for the sake of completeness.

The Scotland Act 1998 (c.46) ('the Scotland Act') provides for pay and allowances to MSPs, Officeholders of the Parliament and Ministers. The Parliament is required under s81 to make provision (by Scottish Act or by resolution of the Parliament) for the payment of:

- salaries and allowances to MSPs and to members of the Scottish Executive (which includes junior Scottish ministers), and
- pensions and the like to former MSPs, members of the Scottish Executive and Officeholders of the Parliament.

MSPs are not entitled to any salary or allowance until they have taken the oath of allegiance required by s84. Once they have done so,¹ they are entitled to relevant payments for the whole period since being returned as Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Initial salaries, subject to annual up-rating according to the senior civil service formula, were set out in the [Scotland Act 1998 \(Transitory and Transitional Provisions\) \(Salaries and Allowances\) Order 1999 \[SI 1999/1097\]](#). The Presiding Officer and deputy Presiding Officers received an additional sum. Under this initial scheme, salaries were up-rated from 1 April each year using a formula relating to senior civil service salary increases (the Salaries and Allowances Order, art 7). This remained in force until 1 April 2002 when the Scottish Parliament's own arrangements, conferring the function of setting salaries on the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB), came into effect.

In 2001 the SSRB again reviewed parliamentary pay of MSPs, officers of the Parliament and Ministers. It also reviewed allowances. The SSRB recommendations were broadly accepted by the four main political parties (Scottish Parliament 2001). These, too, were set out in [SB 07-09 Parliamentary Pay and Allowances](#) (Earle 2007) and have led to the current scheme.

SALARIES OF MSPS AND SCOTTISH MINISTERS

MSP salaries are set at 87.5% per cent of salaries paid to Westminster Members of Parliament. Scottish Parliament Salaries and Allowances was the subject of debate in the Chamber on 21 March 2002. (Scottish Parliament 2002c) The motion provided that the SPCB should decide salary levels for Members and Ministers and that any future increases should be based on 87.5% of Westminster salaries. This was based on a Senior Salaries Review Body recommendation. The motion was passed on a free vote.

Additional amounts are paid to ministers and officers of the Parliament. Both the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland receive the equivalent of an MSP salary included with their Law Officer salaries.

The current salary of a Member of the Scottish Parliament is £56,571. Salaries of members of the Scottish Executive, junior Scottish Ministers and Members of the Scottish Parliament are set out in the following table:

¹ This must have been within two months or such other longer period as the Parliament may allow, otherwise they cease to be Members: s84(3)

Table 8: Salaries for Members of the Scottish Parliament from 1 April 2009 (£)

Office Holder	Annual Salary	Annual Salary (including MSP salary)
MSP	56,671	56,671
MSP (dual mandate)	18,891	18,891
First Minister*	82,094	138,765
Cabinet Secretary	42,588	99,259
Minister	26,676	83,347
Presiding Officer	42,588	99,259
Deputy Presiding Officer	26,676	83,347
Lord Advocate	55,638	112,309
Solicitor General for Scotland	40,233	96,904

* Alex Salmond MSP is both First Minister and a dual Mandate MSP. He is entitled to £18,891 (one third of MSP salary) + £82,094 (First Minister's supplement) + £64,766 (Westminster salary) = £165,751. However, he was among the Scottish Ministers that chose to not take the increase in Ministerial salary. He therefore pays back £1,339 per year. This is paid back rather than not received because, for administrative reasons, the Parliament must be able to show that the correct monies have been disbursed.

Those Members of the Scottish Parliament who hold a dual mandate are listed in a Factsheet: [MSPs with Dual Mandates](#). (Scottish Parliament 2007b) MSPs who are also Councillors or members of the House of Lords will not be affected as being a Councillor is classified as separate employment. There may, however, be an obligation on the MSP to declare or register the additional salary as an interest. MSPs who are also MPs or MEPs receive one third of their MSP salary during any period where an MP or an MEP salary is payable to an MSP, regardless of whether the salary was in fact drawn down. Under paragraph 2(2) of the Scottish Parliament Salary Scheme, there is no flexibility for negotiation on this point. (Scottish Parliament 2002b)

GRANTS AND PENSIONS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Further details of the new pensions scheme, to be introduced in 2011, including grants, are set out in [SB 08-60 The Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Bill: Stage 1 Debate](#). (Earle 2008) This Bill became the [Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009 \(asp 1\)](#).

SALARIES IN OTHER PARLIAMENTS AND ASSEMBLIES

This briefing will concentrate on United Kingdom legislatures, although information on other countries may be sought from the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#).²

The United Kingdom Parliament: House of Commons and House of Lords

In January 2008, Members agreed that Sir John Baker would set up a mechanism for establishing their salaries. The Baker Report (Baker 2008) was published in June 2008 (House of Commons Library 2008a). From 1 April 2009, the salary of a Member of Parliament is £64,766, following Parliamentary agreement by acclaim to the [Members' Salaries \(Expression Of Opinion\) \(No. 2\)](#) (3 July 2008) (HC Deb 3 July 2008 col 1088)

In both 2008/09 and 2009/10, Gordon Brown announced that Ministers would not take the increase in ministerial salary and, in 2009/10, he also said that Ministers would decline their increase in Members' salary as well, as set out below.

² The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has published the following: Commonwealth Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances 2000-2001, Survey of Facilities and Services Available to Commonwealth Parliamentarians, 2002-2003 and Survey of Remuneration paid to Members of the Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth, 2004-2005. these documents are available through the CPA web site under [Electronic publications and recommendations of CPA Study Groups, Seminars and Workshops](#): <http://www.cpahq.org/default.aspx?id=2368>.

On 17 June 2008, the Prime Minister announced the publication of the SSRB's *Thirtieth Report on Senior Salaries 2008*. In the same written ministerial statement, he also announced that:

Ministers' pay is automatically linked to the average increase in the midpoint of SCS [Senior Civil Service] pay, which moves in line with SSRB recommendations. However, given the importance of public sector pay restraint at a time of economic uncertainty Ministers will not be accepting any pay rise in 2008-09. (HC Deb 17 June 2008 col 47WS)

On 31 March 2009, the Prime Minister announced the publication of the SSRB's *Thirty-First Report on Senior Salaries 2009*. In the same written ministerial statement, he also announced that:

The changes to senior civil service pay mean that ministerial pay, which is linked by legislation to the average increase in the midpoint of senior civil service pay ranges, will increase by 1.5 per cent. However, given the importance of public sector pay restraint at a time of economic uncertainty salaried Ministers will not be accepting any pay rise in 2009-10, either in their ministerial pay or in their parliamentary pay. (HC Deb 31 March 2009 col 62WS)

Tables 9 and 10 set out the salary entitlements of Ministers and Office Holders in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, in respect of both the office holder entitlement and the total salary entitlement which includes the addition of the MP salary.

Table 9: MPs', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salaries in the House of Commons 2009-10

Office	Ministerial entitlement (£)	Full salary entitlement (£)
Member of Parliament	N/A	64,766
Prime Minister	132,923	197,689
Cabinet Minister	79,754	144,520
Minister of State	41,370	106,136
Parliamentary Under Secretary	31,401	96,167
Government Chief Whip	79,754	144,520
Government Deputy Chief Whip	41,370	106,136
Government Whip	26,624	91,390
Assistant Government Whip	26,624	91,390
Leader of the Opposition	73,617	138,383
Opposition Chief Whip	41,370	106,136
Opposition Deputy Chief Whip	26,624	91,390
Opposition Assistant Whip	26,624	91,390
Speaker	79,754	144,520
Chairman of Ways and Means	41,370	106,136
First Deputy Chairman	36,360	101,126
Second Deputy Chairman	36,360	101,126
Attorney General (d)		
Solicitor General	69,491	134,257
Advocate General for Scotland (a)		

Table 10: Ministers' and Officeholders' Salaries in the House of Lords 2009-10

Office	Salary (£)
Lord Speaker <i>(b)</i>	108,253
Cabinet Minister	108,253
Minister of State	84,524
Parliamentary Under Secretary	73,617
Government Chief Whip	84,524
Government Deputy Chief Whip	73,617
Government Whip	68,074
Leader of the Opposition	73,617
Opposition Chief Whip	68,074
Lord Chancellor <i>(c)</i>	
Chairman of Committees	84,524
Principal Deputy Chairman	79,076
Attorney General	113,248
Advocate General for Scotland <i>(a)</i>	98,307

Notes:

- (a) The Office of Advocate General for Scotland was created by the *Scotland Act 1998*: the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland became Ministers in the Scottish Executive. The Advocate General for Scotland sits in the House of Lords.
- (b) The Lord Speaker took office on 4 July 2006; the *Constitutional Reform Act 2005* no longer required the Lord Chancellor to fulfil this role.
- (c) The Lord Chancellor no longer has to sit in the House of Lords. The position is now held by Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Justice.
- (d) In the House of Lords.

For more information see House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/05075 [Members' pay and allowances - a brief history](#) (House of Commons Library 2009a) and House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/05050 [Members' pay and allowances - arrangements in other parliaments](#) (House of Commons Library 2009b).

The National Assembly for Wales

Table 11 below provides details of the salaries for the current financial year of Members, Ministers and the principal officeholders in the National Assembly for Wales. Following a Determination, based on recommendations of the SSRB and passed by the Assembly on 9 March 2005 (National Assembly for Wales 2006), the salaries of Members and Officeholders were increased each year by the same percentage as the average of the movements in the mid-points of the senior civil service pay bands. This is in line with arrangements in the House of Commons in which pay increases for Ministers are linked automatically to the increase in pay bands for the senior civil service, under the provisions of section 1 of the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1997. Because of the link between salaries in the devolved legislatures and those in the House of Commons, and the link between House of Commons and senior civil service pay, there was a consequent link between salaries in all the devolved legislatures and those in the senior civil service.

However, the Welsh have now broken the link with senior civil service pay bands. This follows the Independent Panel's report on financial support for Assembly Members, [Getting it Right for Wales](#) (National Assembly for Wales 2009a) published by the [Independent Review Panel on AMs' Pay and Allowances](#) on 8 July 2009. This Report was accepted by the National Assembly in July 2009, which is currently establishing an independent pay review panel for salaries and allowances.³ (National Assembly for Wales 2009b)

³ See the statement by the Presiding Officer 21 October 2009 to begin the scrutiny process: http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/wales/newsid_8314000/8314843.stm

Table 11: [Members', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salary Levels 2009-10:](#)

	Additional salary entitlement*	Full salary entitlement
Assembly Member	N/A	53,108
Assembly Member who is also MP/MEP	17,703	82,469
First Minister	79,754	132,862
Welsh Minister Presiding Officer/Leader of largest party not in Cabinet	41,370	94,478
Deputy Presiding Officer	26,022	79,130
Deputy Minister	26,022	79,130
Government Chief Whip	26,022	79,130
Opposition Chief Whip	11,543	64,651
Leader of Opposition parties other than the largest	11,543	64,651
Assembly Commissioners	11,543	64,651
Subject/Scrutiny Committee Chair	11,543	64,651
Audit Committee Chair	11,543	64,651
Finance Committee Chair	11,543	64,651
Other Committee Chair	6,039	59,147

* in addition to AM salary

The Northern Ireland Assembly

Following the appointment of an Executive after the election in March 2007, Ministers receive such salaries as determined either by the Assembly or by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The figures given in Table 12, below, set out the details of that determination, which have remained unchanged since 2007. The uprating of salaries follows recommendations of the SSRB, which in December 2008 recommended a downgrading of MLA pay. This recommendation was based on the level of constituents per MLA, such that the SSRB recommended that MLAs should receive 75% of an MP's salary, rather than the current 82% (Senior Salaries Review Body 2008).

Table 12: Members', Ministers' and Officeholders' Salary Levels for 2009-10 (£)

Office / Post	Additional Officeholder's salary	Total Salary
Assembly Member	N/A	43,101
First Minister and Deputy First Ministers	71,434	114,535
Presiding Officer	37,801	80,902
Deputy Presiding Officer	8,499	51,600
Minister	37,801	80,902
Junior Minister	19,609	62,710
Chairs of Statutory Committees	11,331	54,432
Deputy Chairs of Statutory Committees	5,667	48,768
Members of the Assembly Commission	11,331	54,432

The European Parliament

Previously under the European Parliament (Pay and Pensions) Act 1979 the salary of British MEPs was [linked to that of United Kingdom MPs](#). This gave MEPs the same salary as MPs (discussed above), of £64,766. MEPs who are also MPs receive an additional one third of this rate. Allowances are governed by the European Parliament.

Following the 2009 European Parliament election, the link between MEP and MP salaries in the home countries of MEPs has been discontinued for new MEPs. It has been replaced by an agreed statutory regime. The move to a single statute was designed to end pay disparities among MEPs from different countries.

The monthly pre-tax salary of MEPs under the single statute for 2009 is €7,665.31. The salary is from Parliament's budget and is subject to an EU tax and accident insurance contribution, after which the salary is €5,963.33. Member States can also subject the salary to national taxes. The basic salary is set at 38.5% of the basic salary of a judge at the European Court of Justice. There are some MEPs to whom an exception applies insofar as they sat in Parliament before the 2009 elections and may opt to keep the previous national system for salary, transitional allowance and pensions.

Under the same statute, former Members will be entitled to an old-age pension from the age of 63. The pension will be 3.5% of the salary for each full year's exercise of a mandate but not more than 70% in total. The cost of these pensions will be met from the European Parliament budget. An additional pension scheme, introduced for MEPs in 1989, has been closed to new members from July and is being phased out.

A [general expenditure allowance](#) is in place with the intention to:

cover expenditure in the Member State of election, such as Members' office management costs, telephone and postal charges, the purchase, operation and maintenance of computer and telematics equipment, and the cost of travel. The allowance is halved in the case of Members who, without due justification, do not attend half the number of plenary sittings in one parliamentary year (September to August).

The amount of this allowance in 2009 is €4,202 per month.

In addition, the cost of travel expenses are refunded on presentation of receipts, up to a maximum of a business class air fare, a first class rail fare or €0.49 per km for a car journey. The previous system of a flat-rate travel allowance for journeys to Brussels and Strasbourg (and other EU destinations) has been abolished. Members who travel outside their home Member State in the performance of their duties but for purposes other than official meetings, may claim expenses up to a maximum of €4,148 (2009).

The European Parliament pays a flat rate of €298 for each day of attendance at official meetings of the Parliament bodies on which the Member serves that are held within the European Community. This covers accommodation, meals and all other expenses involved in such attendance. During plenary sessions, Parliament reduces this amount by one half for Members who have not taken part in one half of the roll-call votes held on the Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of part-sessions held in Strasbourg and on the second day of part-sessions held in Brussels. The Parliament pays €149 per day, plus accommodation and breakfast expenses, for attendance at meetings held outside the European Community.

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