

Guide to Financial Support for Members

September 2021



HOUSE OF LORDS



FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Lords states that Members 'should act always on their personal honour' and 'shall act in accordance with any rules agreed by the House in respect of financial support for Members'.

Members of the House should observe the seven general principles of conduct in public life. These principles will be taken into consideration when any allegation of breaches of the provisions in other sections of the Code is under investigation:

(a) Selflessness: Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

(b) Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

(c) Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

(d) Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

(e) Openness: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

(f) Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

(g) Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

A breach of the rules relating to financial support for Members constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct. A breach could lead to an investigation by the House of Lords Commissioner for Standards.

The Code of Conduct can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-commissioner-for-standards/HL-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

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HOUSE OF LORDS

GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background

- 1.1.1. This guide relates to the system of financial support for Members which came into effect on 6 September 2021. Most Members of the House of Lords do not receive a salary in respect of their Parliamentary duties. Members may, however, be entitled to financial support arising out of these duties, as set out in this guide which is based on Resolutions of the House and reports and decisions of the House Committee and House of Lords Commission. The scheme rules are applied by the Finance Director on behalf of the Clerk of the Parliaments who is the Accounting Officer for the House of Lords.
- 1.1.2. It is not possible to cover in this guide every circumstance under which Members may be able to reclaim expenses and allowances. Members should contact the Members' Finance Section for general assistance or to discuss any particular points that arise from their claims.
- 1.1.3. Section 16 provides information on the reimbursement of expenses available to salaried Ministers and salaried Office Holders.

I.2. Taxable status

- 1.2.1. Membership of the House of Lords is neither an employment nor an office (except for Members who are salaried Ministers or salaried Office Holders). Neither tax nor National Insurance Contributions (NICs) are payable on the expenses and allowances Members receive in connection with their Parliamentary activities and they need not be included on a tax return. Whether any Member is entitled to claim any non-parliamentary expenses against income on their tax return is entirely a matter to be decided between themselves and the HMRC. The Finance Department are unable to provide any further tax advice.

I.3. The Members' Finance Section

1.3.1. The arrangements for financial support are administered by the Members' Finance Section in the Finance Department. The Members' Finance Section is located in room 3-51, third floor of Millbank House (Great College Street).

Postal address: Finance Department
 House of Lords
 London
 SW1A 0PW
Telephone: 020 7219 6096
Email: HLMembersFinance@parliament.uk

1.3.2. All requests for financial support must be submitted on the appropriate claim form. The latest version of the attendance claim form is available from the Printed Paper Office. Although certain claim forms are issued by the relevant department, most claim forms can be obtained from the Members' Finance Section or can be found on the House of Lords intranet:

<http://intranet.parliament.uk/finances/allowances/peers-allowances/>

I.4. Data Protection

1.4.1. A privacy notice setting out how the House of Lords collects and uses Members' personal data is available on the intranet and in hard copy form from the Data Protection Officer (tel: 020 7219 0100/8481) or Finance Department.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION RELATING TO CLAIMS

2.1. Eligibility to claim

- 2.1.1. The financial support for Members detailed in this guide relates to unsalaried Members, i.e. those not in receipt of a Ministerial or Office Holder's salary, unless otherwise specified.
- 2.1.2. No Member may claim the daily allowance or reimbursement of expenses unless they have taken the oath of allegiance (or affirmed) and signed an undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct. Members on leave of absence are ineligible to claim.

2.2. Submission of claims

- 2.2.1. One attendance claim should be completed and submitted for each calendar month. Claims submitted must be hard copy and bear the member's original signature.

2.3. Time limit for submission of claims

- 2.3.1. Claims must be received by the Finance Department within one month from the end of the calendar month in which the entitlement to claim arose. For example, a claim for the daily allowance and expenses relating to January must be received by the Finance Department before the end of February.

2.4. Payment of claims

- 2.4.1. The Finance Department will make payments to Members monthly in arrears. Should the Finance Department be unable to authorise an amount claimed because it falls outside the guidelines, then this would normally be deducted from the amount claimed and the Member advised accordingly. However for certain queries, including those relating to dates of attendance, the claim may not be processed by the Finance Department until clarification is received from the Member.

2.5. Publication of information

- 2.5.1. Information on the allowances and expenses paid to each Member, including free postage costs, will be published on the Parliamentary website. Additional correspondence and information may be made available following requests under the Freedom of Information Act. What, if any, information is released will depend on the individual nature of the request.

2.6. Audit

2.6.1. Claims for financial support are subject to both internal and external audit. As part of the process, a sample of claims, receipts and other declarations will be audited each year.

2.7. Breach of the Code of Conduct – complaints

2.7.1. Any complaint alleging that a Member of the House of Lords has breached the Code of Conduct should be sent in writing to The House of Lords Commissioner for Standards, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

3. ENTITLEMENT TO CLAIM

3.1. Attendance at Westminster

3.1.1. The basic principle underlying the scheme is that the entitlement to claim arises only in respect of attendance at sittings of the House or its committees at Westminster i.e. on the Parliamentary Estate. These are defined as:

- sittings in the chamber of the House when formal business takes place¹;
- sittings of the Grand Committee;
- voting in a division;
- meetings or virtual meetings of committees and sub-committees of the House (providing the Member's attendance is recorded in the minutes);
- appearing as a witness before a House of Lords committee;
- meetings as a member of the Board of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST);
- meetings of the Ecclesiastical Committee and the Audit Committee;
- meetings of the Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art;
- meetings of the Sponsor Board for Restoration and Renewal;
- meetings of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament;
- meetings of the Steering Group for Change;
- meetings of the Consultative Panel on Parliamentary Security.

3.1.2. For clarification as to whether or not entitlement to claim arises in certain circumstances the following should be noted:

- on the 'swearing in days' at the start of a Parliament, Members may claim for the day on which they take the oath (or affirm), and for attending on subsequent days for a Royal Commission or an introduction. They may not claim merely for watching other Members take the oath²;
- the following count as sittings:
 - the afternoon after state opening (first day of the Debate on the Address);
 - a sitting to adjourn to Westminster Hall for an Address;
 - a sitting for prorogation only;
- the following do not count as sittings:
 - the ceremony of State Opening;
 - Presentation of an Address in Westminster Hall;
 - Speeches by visiting dignitaries.

¹ Members who have been deemed eligible by the process established by the Commission to participate virtually in sittings of the House are entitled to claim an allowance when they do so

² However, an exception is made in respect of Deputy Speakers on the Woolsack and the Bishop reading prayers

3.1.3. Members claiming are required to certify that they have undertaken parliamentary work on the dates specified and have had regard to the obligation in paragraph 8(b) of the Code of Conduct to act on their personal honour. The Guide to the Code says “the term ‘personal honour’ is ultimately an expression of the sense of the House as a whole as to the standards of conduct expected of individual Members”. For further information see Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Lords.³

³ <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-commissioner-for-standards/HL-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

3.2. Record of attendances at Westminster

3.2.1. Members' attendance in the chamber is noted and subsequently recorded by the Journal Office. The Members' Finance section will contact the Member should a claim be received for a date where there is no record of attendance. If attendance has not been recorded the Members' Finance section can accept a written self-certified attendance for one date of attendance per Member per financial year (1 April to 31 March). Any further self-certified attendances will be referred to the Finance Director, and any appeal beyond that will be referred to the Clerk of the Parliaments whose decision is final. A Member wishing to check their record of attendance may do so by using the Peer Hub app or by contacting the Members' Finance section.

3.3. Other parliamentary business

3.3.1. Financial Support is also available for certain other Parliamentary business as follows:

- participation in committee meetings and visits (section 7);
- participation in official Parliamentary delegations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE (section 8);
- travel as a representative of the House (section 9);
- participation in the Lords Outreach Programme (section 10);
- participation in certain other meetings and visits mandated by the House (section 11) as follows:
 - British American Parliamentary Group (BAPG);
 - British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA);
 - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPAUK);
 - British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU);
 - House of Commons Members' Fund (HoCMF) – meetings;
 - Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) – meetings;
- travel in connection with the Armed Forces and Police Service Parliamentary Schemes (section 12);
- travel in the UK on Parliamentary business (section 13);
- travel to the Scottish Parliament and devolved assemblies (section 14);
- European travel on Parliamentary business (section 15).

3.4. Dissolution

- 3.4.1. During a dissolution there is no Parliament. The provisions of the Members Finance Scheme cease to operate and no expenses or allowances are claimable.⁴

⁴ The exceptions to this general provision are section 8 *Parliamentary Delegations* and section 9 *Travel as a Representative of the House*.

4. DAILY ALLOWANCE

- 4.1.1. Members who are not in receipt of a Ministerial or Office Holder's salary and certify that they have undertaken parliamentary work are entitled to claim a daily allowance of £323⁵ for each qualifying day of attendance at Westminster.
- 4.1.2. A Member may, on a day by day basis, elect to claim the reduced allowance at the daily rate of £162³. Claims must be submitted on form AE (or form AETC if the Member has been issued with a Members' travel credit card). Members who do not wish to claim the allowance for any particular day of attendance need not do so.
- 4.1.3. The reduced daily allowance may be claimable in respect of participation by Members in certain other mandated Parliamentary business, as set out in sections 7-12.
- 4.1.4. A Member who has claimed a daily allowance for a qualifying day of attendance at Westminster may not also claim the reduced daily allowance in respect of other mandated Parliamentary business on the same day.

⁵ Rate applies from 1 April 2020 and is subject to annual review.

5. TRAVEL EXPENSES

5.1. General

- 5.1.1. Members who live outside Greater London may recover travel expenses for journeys between a registered residential address and Westminster by a reasonable route to enable them to attend sittings of the House or other allowable travel detailed in this guide. A maximum of one journey in each direction may be claimed for each day of attendance. The timing of arrival at/departure from Westminster relative to attendance is a matter for the Member.
- 5.1.2. Members may recover the cost of fares incurred by them for travel by any public rail, sea, air or bus service, or the costs of journeys made by private car, motorcycle or bicycle. Certain road tolls, parking and taxi fares may also be recovered. Members should use the most cost effective method of travel practicable.
- 5.1.3. Members cannot claim for any travel within London unless it forms part of their journey between their registered residential address outside Greater London and Westminster. Individual journeys made using a TfL Oyster card may be claimed for, however Oyster card top-ups are not eligible. Such a claim may include mileage by taxi but not the full fare.
- 5.1.4. Members are required to sign a declaration that expenses are not claimed from any other source.
- 5.1.5. Members are encouraged to make use of the Members' travel credit card for any reimbursable travel as outlined in this guide (except for car mileage). This will enable costs to be met directly by the House. Applications for Members' travel credit cards should be made to the Members' Finance Section.

5.2. Registered residential address

- 5.2.1. Attendance (and Spouse, Civil Partner & Children's) travel expenses can only be reimbursed if a residential address outside Greater London has been formally registered with the Finance Department. Only one address may be registered for this purpose.

The address should be registered on form ROA. The completed form should be submitted together with a copy of one of the following documents which must bear the name of the Member and the address in question, or a satisfactory alternative:

- Utility bill (not more than 3 months old);
- Current council tax bill (or rates bill if in Northern Ireland);

- Bank, building society or credit card statement (not more than 3 months old);
- Current house or car insurance policy;
- Current mortgage statement, tenancy agreement or document of title;
- Valid UK driving licence.

5.2.2. If a Member's registered residential address is outside the UK, travel costs may be reimbursed only from the point of entry into the UK. If a separate ticket from the point of entry into the UK was not purchased then a ticket or receipt covering the entire journey will be acceptable, as evidence of expenditure of the notional cost of the journey from the point of entry.

5.3. Broken Journeys

5.3.1. Members may break their journeys by up to a maximum of one night provided that the total journey is:

- a reasonable route between a registered residential address and Westminster;
- to attend a sitting of the House; and
- not more expensive than the normal cost of an unbroken journey by the usual route (except in the case of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Islands and the Highlands, where an unbroken journey in one day may be impractical).

5.4. Rail

5.4.1. Members are entitled to be reimbursed for rail travel up to the maximum cost of a standard Anytime ticket for the same type of ticket as actually bought, e.g. if a return ticket is bought the maximum reimbursable would be the cost of a standard Anytime return and not the cost of two standard Anytime single tickets. Members are expected to take advantage of any available cheap ticket facilities. Members are encouraged to book tickets through the Travel Office which is located in the Palace of Westminster (020 7219 4232; parliament@eu.travelctm.com).

5.4.2. Members may recover the cost of a weekly season ticket where this represents a saving over the cost of daily tickets for each day of attendance.

5.4.3. Additionally Members may claim for:

- the cost of rail cards (for example a senior citizens' railcard);
- the cost of seat reservations for rail travel;
- rail sleeper services (single occupancy berths permitted).

5.5. Air

- 5.5.1. Members are entitled to be reimbursed for the cost of a business class ticket. Members are expected to take advantage of any available cheap ticket facilities. Members are encouraged to book their tickets through the Travel Office which is located in the Palace of Westminster (020 7219 4232; parliament@eu.travelctm.com).
- 5.5.2. Members should use any reward points offered by airlines in connection with travel which they undertake in attending a sitting of the House or on other Parliamentary business to offset their future travel costs in relation to Parliamentary business. Any such reward points should not be used for their personal benefit.

5.6. Car, motorcycle and bicycle mileage

- 5.6.1. Claims for mileage are payable at the standard rate set by HMRC:⁶
- car – 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year ending 31 March, and
 - 25p per mile for mileage in excess of 10,000 miles in the same year;
 - motorcycle – 24p per mile;
 - bicycle – 20p per mile.
- 5.6.2. If a Member's private vehicle takes them from a Member's registered residential address outside Greater London to the station or airport serving that address, or vice versa, a return journey is permitted.
- 5.6.3. Only one Member may make a claim for each journey, per vehicle.

5.7. Road tolls

- 5.7.1. Members may recover the cost of road tolls (but not congestion charges) up to the price for a car (if car mileage is claimed) or motorcycle (if motorcycle mileage is claimed).

5.8. Parking

- 5.8.1. Members travelling from their registered residential address outside Greater London may recover a maximum contribution of up to £20 for each day of attendance for necessary parking when using a UK airport, station, coach stop or port serving that address. In incurring such costs Members should have regard to value for money.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/expenses-and-benefits-business-travel-mileage/rules-for-tax>

5.8.2. Members cannot claim for valet services, any penalties incurred, or parking at any London airport or other London terminal.

5.9. Taxis

5.9.1. As an alternative to parking costs a contribution towards the cost of taxis may be claimed for journeys from a Member's registered residential address outside Greater London to the UK airport, station, coach stop or port serving that address. The contribution is limited to a maximum of £20 for each day of attendance.

5.9.2. Members who have not claimed a contribution towards the cost of taxis under 5.9.1 may claim for reimbursement at the normal mileage rate (section 5.6.1) for the miles actually travelled in the taxi.

5.9.3. Members cannot claim for:

- both parking and taxi costs for the same journey;
- taxis within London (except under pre-authorised disability provision);
- taxis to or from any London airport or other London terminal unless this forms part of their normal journey to or from the registered residential address outside Greater London for attendance at Westminster, in which case mileage may be claimed at the normal rate (5.6.1) for the miles actually travelled in the taxi between the London terminal and Westminster.

5.9.4. Members may claim for reimbursement of parking and taxi costs outside Greater London for journeys made under sections 12-15 providing the overall cost, including any claim made under 5.9.1, does not exceed £20 for each day of the visit or attendance.

5.9.5. If travel disruption inside or outside of London resulting from strike action necessitates the use by a Member of a taxi, an application for reimbursement will be considered on a case by case basis following consultation with the Finance Director and the Clerk of the Parliaments.

5.10. Receipts and documentation

5.10.1. Tickets or receipts must be submitted to support reimbursement of claims for travel, irrespective of cost, except for mileage. The Finance Department will not be able to reimburse claims without the relevant supporting documentation which must comply with the following requirements:

- Air travel – the ticket or receipt showing details of the journey and the amount paid;
- Rail travel – the ticket or receipt showing the amount paid;
- Railcards – a copy of the receipt or railcard showing the amount paid;

- Bus, coach or ferry – the ticket or receipt showing the amount paid;
- Oyster pay as you go – a TfL (Transport for London) statement of journeys made and amounts paid;
- Contactless debit/credit cards - a TfL (Transport for London) statement of journeys made (statements may be obtained providing the card has been registered with TfL);
- Car parking – the ticket, receipt or official statement showing the location, date(s) and amount paid;
- Road tolls – the receipt or official statement of account (e.g. Dart Charge) showing details and the amount paid;
- Taxis – the receipt showing the name of the taxi operator, the date of travel and the amount paid.

5.10.2. When tickets are purchased using the Members' travel credit card members are encouraged to attach the documentation to the completed card statement before return to the Finance Department.

5.11. Recall of Parliament

5.11.1. Should the House be recalled during a Parliamentary recess, Members may recover the costs necessarily incurred in attending a sitting of the House, including the cost of travel from overseas.

5.12. Inclement Weather

5.12.1. Should a journey be interrupted by inclement weather the Administration will seek to apply the principle that a Member should not be financially disadvantaged provided that Members make reasonable efforts to mitigate the additional costs incurred. Evidence of the additional costs necessarily incurred should be obtained and reimbursement will be considered on a claim by claim basis.

5.13. Claims

5.13.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred must be submitted on the appropriate form.

6. SPOUSE, CIVIL PARTNER AND CHILDREN'S TRAVEL

6.1. General

- 6.1.1. Members who live outside Greater London may recover travel expenses for journeys undertaken by their spouse or civil partner between the Member's registered residential address and Westminster. This must be in connection with attendance of the spouse or civil partner at a parliamentary occasion, i.e. a sitting of the House, committee of the House or another parliamentary event taking place on a sitting day.
- 6.1.2. Members may also recover the costs incurred by each of their children, up to the age of 18 (and children over 18 still in full time secondary education, until the end of the academic year in which their 18th birthday falls) on the same basis.
- 6.1.3. Claims under this heading should name the person to whom the claim relates. There is no requirement for a Member's spouse, civil partner or children to sign in. Reimbursement of travel expenses is limited to six return journeys each per calendar year.
- 6.1.4. Reimbursement of travel costs is subject to the limitations set out in section 5. The contribution towards the costs of parking or taxis is limited to £20 for each day of travel.

6.2. Claims

- 6.2.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred under this section must be submitted on form SCT.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND VISITS AWAY FROM WESTMINSTER

7.1. Travel

7.1.1. Travel arrangements for committee meetings and visits away from Westminster, in the UK or overseas, are made by the Committee Office, which meets the costs directly. Costs of travel from a Member's registered residential address, London home or Westminster to the starting point for a visit should be reclaimed through the clerk of the relevant committee, subject to the limitations set out in section 5.

7.2. Subsistence and accommodation

7.2.1. Subsistence and accommodation costs for committee meetings and official business held away from Westminster are met directly by the Committee Office or paid at standard HMRC subsistence rates appropriate to the location.

7.3. Reduced daily allowance

7.3.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of the formal programme of the meeting or visit. This may also be claimed when travelling to or from the meeting, up to a maximum of two additional days providing that the days claimed match the days covered by the travel arrangements recommended by the Committee Office.

7.3.2. A Member may not claim the allowance for attending a meeting or visit if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

7.4. Claims

7.4.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claim forms are available from the clerk of the relevant committee.

8. PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

8.1. Introduction

8.1.1. Specified Members who attend official meetings listed on the 'Rolling Programme' may reclaim travel and subsistence costs incurred in the United Kingdom or overseas as members of the official Parliamentary delegations to the:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

The delegations are administered by the House of Commons Overseas Office in accordance with rules agreed by both Houses. Full details of these arrangements are set out in the Guide for Members of the Delegations, a copy of which is provided, on the appointment of a delegate, by the Overseas Office in the House of Commons.

8.2. Travel and subsistence

8.2.1. For meetings held away from Westminster, in the UK or overseas, travel is arranged by the Delegation Secretary. Costs are normally met directly by the House of Commons Overseas Office. Costs of travel from a Member's registered residential address, London home or Westminster to the starting point for a visit may be claimed subject to the limitations set out in section 5.

8.3. Reduced daily allowance

8.3.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of the formal programme of the visit. This may also be claimed when travelling to or from the meeting, up to a maximum of two additional days providing that the days claimed match the days covered by the travel arrangements recommended by the House of Commons Overseas Office.

8.3.2. A Member may not claim the allowance for attending a delegation if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

8.4. Expenses of a Rapporteur

8.4.1. Members acting in the capacity of Rapporteur are entitled to claim the reduced daily allowance as in 8.2 but only for days when the House is sitting providing:

- The Member obtains prior approval via the Finance Department at least one week before any visit;

- Confirmation of the status of the Rapporteur work is provided by the Commons Overseas Office or inter-Parliamentary Assembly concerned;
- Satisfactory confirmation of attendance is provided.

8.4.2. If a Member attends, in the capacity of Rapporteur, a delegation which is not on the Rolling Programme (or is on the Rolling Programme and is marked *⁷), expenses, including those outlined in section 8.1, cannot be claimed under this scheme but should be met by the organisation which appointed the Rapporteur.

8.5. Claims

8.5.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of expenses should be made on Parliamentary Delegation claim forms which are available from the House of Commons Overseas Office. Claims for the reduced daily allowance should be made on form PD which is available from the House of Lords Members' Finance Section.

⁷ * Indicates that expenses will not be paid by the House.

9. TRAVEL AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOUSE

9.1. Travel and subsistence

9.1.1. Members may be appointed to travel as representatives of the House. Costs of travel from a Member's registered residential address, London home or Westminster may be claimed subject to the limitations set out in section 5. Details may be obtained from the House of Lords Overseas Office.

9.2. Reduced daily allowance

9.2.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of the formal programme of the visit. This may also be claimed when travelling to or from the meeting, up to a maximum of two additional days providing that the days claimed match the days covered by the travel arrangements recommended by the House of Lords Overseas Office.

9.2.2. A Member may not claim the allowance as a representative of the House if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

9.3. Claims

9.3.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for the reduced daily allowance and reimbursement of expenses should be made on form ROH available from the House of Lords Overseas Office.

10. THE LORDS ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION SERVICE PROGRAMMES

10.1. Background

10.1.1. Members taking part in the Lords Engagement Programme may recover the cost of travel subject to the following conditions:

- each request will be considered on its own merit after considering the locations, directness of route, duration and cost;
- the visit must be approved in advance by the Lord Speaker's office; and
- expenses claimed must not be recoverable from any other source;
- Members taking part in the Education Service programme must obtain approval in advance from the Director of Communications

10.2. Travel (Engagement Programme only)

10.2.1. Costs of travel may be claimed subject to the relevant limitations set out in section 5.

10.3. Reduced daily allowance

10.3.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of the visit.

10.3.2. A Member may not claim the allowance for a visit if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

10.4. Incidental and overnight accommodation expenses (Engagement Programme only)

10.4.1. Members may recover the cost of taxis, meals, refreshments, exceptionally accommodation if an overnight stay is necessary, and other additional expenses necessarily incurred.

10.5. Claims

10.5.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claim form LEP is available from the Lord Speaker's Office for the Engagement programme and form ES is available from the Communications Team for an Education Service event.

11. OTHER MEETINGS AND VISITS MANDATED BY THE HOUSE

11.1. Eligible Groups

11.1.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed in respect of participation by Members on other mandated Parliamentary business. This covers delegations and meetings of the:

- British American Parliamentary Group (BAPG);
- British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA);
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPAUK);
- British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU);
- House of Commons Members' Fund (HoCMF) – meetings;
- Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) – meetings.

11.1.2. A letter from the secretariat of the Parliamentary group concerned, confirming brief details including dates of attendance, is required to accompany claims.

11.1.3. Activities of other All Party Parliamentary Groups are not covered by this system of financial support.

11.2. Reduced daily allowance

11.2.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of the formal programme of the meeting or visit attended. This may also be claimed when travelling to or from the meeting, up to a maximum of two additional days, providing that the days claimed match the days covered by the travel arrangements recommended by the relevant secretariat. The allowance may only be claimed for days when the House is sitting.

11.2.2. Members are also entitled to claim the Reduced Daily Allowance when attending parliamentary strengthening visits of the CPAUK and BGIPU providing the organising body has obtained formal approval in advance from the Lord Speaker.

11.2.3. A Member may not claim the allowance for attending a meeting or visit if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

11.3. Claims

11.3.1. Claims in respect of the reduced daily allowance should be made on form OMV.

11.3.2. Any other expense claims should be referred to the relevant body.

12. TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE SERVICE PARLIAMENTARY SCHEMES

12.1. Background

12.1.1. Travel expenses incurred by Members participating in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS) and the Police Service Parliamentary Scheme (PSPS) may be claimed so long as they meet the terms set out in this guide and relate to activities wholly within the UK only. Any claim is subject to the Member attending the specific activity. The Members' Finance section will confirm attendance with the organising body. Any other claims should be addressed to the Armed Forces Parliamentary Trust or PSPS as appropriate.

12.2. Travel

12.2.1. Reimbursement of travel costs within the United Kingdom from a Member's registered residential address, London home or Westminster, incurred whilst participating in the AFPS and PSPS may be claimed subject to the limitations set out in section 5.

12.3. Reduced daily allowance

12.3.1. The reduced daily allowance may be claimed for each day of participation. The allowance may only be claimed for days when the House is sitting.

12.3.2. A Member may not claim the allowance if the daily allowance, or reduced daily allowance, has also been claimed for attendance elsewhere on the same day.

12.4. Claims

12.4.1. Claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims should be made on form AFPS(C).

13. OTHER TRAVEL WITHIN THE UK ON PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

13.1. Background

13.1.1. The cost of other travel made on Parliamentary business within the United Kingdom may be recovered as follows.

13.2. Advance approval

13.2.1. Members seeking reimbursement must obtain advance approval using form UKT(A) or UKTFBS(A) (shadow front bench spokespersons) which are available from the Members' Finance Section. Applications are subject to the following conditions:

- the application for advance approval, including the proposed itinerary and agenda for the visit, must be submitted to the Members' Finance Section at least one week before the proposed journey;
- the purpose of the visit must be clearly related to Parliamentary business and should not include party political, personal or private business;
- Members claiming under this heading cannot also claim for the same visit under any other heading in this guide;
- travel claims are subject to the limitations set out in section 5;
- the expenses must not be recoverable from any other source.

13.2.2. The Members' Finance Section will advise the Member in writing whether the visit has been approved. If approved, a claim form will be forwarded to the Member.

13.3. Claims

13.3.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of travel costs incurred should be made on form UKT(C).

13.4. Industry and Parliament Trust

13.4.1. The costs of travel on business connected with Fellowships of the Industry and Parliament Trust (IPT) may be claimed, subject to the limitations set out in section 5 and provided that the expenses are not recoverable from any other source., Advance approval which is not required. All other queries concerning claims should be referred to the IPT.

14. TRAVEL TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT & DEVOLVED ASSEMBLIES

14.1. Background

14.1.1. Members are able to recover the costs of travelling on Parliamentary business between their registered residential address, London home or Westminster and the Scottish Parliament or the devolved assemblies of Northern Ireland and Wales. Claims are restricted to a limit of two return journeys in any year from 1 April to 31 March.

14.2. Advance approval

14.2.1. Members seeking reimbursement must obtain advance approval, using form DA(A) which is available from the Members' Finance Section. Applications are subject to the following:

- the application for advance approval must be submitted to the Members' Finance Section at least one week before the proposed journey;
- the application must include the purpose, destination and duration and the persons or organisations to be visited;
- the purpose of the visit must be clearly related to Parliamentary business and should not include party political, personal or private business;
- any request for reimbursement of overnight accommodation expenses must be included on the form;
- travel claims are subject to the limitations set out in section 5;
- the expenses must not be recoverable from any other source.

14.2.2. The Members' Finance Section will advise the Member in writing whether the visit has been approved. If approved, a claim form will be forwarded to the Member.

14.3. Travel expenses

14.3.1. The amounts payable in respect of travel costs from a Member's registered residential address, London home or Westminster are subject to the limitations set out in section 5.

14.4. Incidental expenses and overnight accommodation

14.4.1. Members may recover the cost of parking, taxis, meals, refreshments, accommodation (if an overnight stay is necessary) and other additional expenses necessarily incurred in connection with the visit for a maximum of one overnight stay/two days. The maximum recoverable is subject to House limits.

14.5. Claims

14.5.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of costs incurred should be made on form DA(C).

15. EUROPEAN TRAVEL ON PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

15.1. Background

15.1.1. Members are able to recover the costs of a maximum of two return journeys in any year (from 1 April to 31 March) for travel on Parliamentary business between their registered residential address in the United Kingdom, London home or Westminster and any:

- European Union member state or candidate country;
- Council of Europe member state;
- European Union institution or agency;
- Institutions of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg;
- Member state of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA);
- The Holy See.

15.2. Advance approval

15.2.1. Members seeking reimbursement must obtain advance approval for the visit using form EUT(A) which is available from the Members' Finance Section. Applications are subject to the following conditions:

- the application for advance approval must be submitted to the Members' Finance Section at least one week before the proposed journey;
- the purpose of the visit must be clearly related to Parliamentary business and should not include party political, personal or private business;
- the application must state the:
 - persons or organisations to be visited;
 - proposed itinerary and agenda;
 - destination and the duration of the visit;
 - estimated cost of travel.
- any other supporting documentation, for example, an invitation should be attached to the application;
- the expenses claimed must not be recoverable from any other source.

15.2.2. The Members' Finance Section will advise the Member in writing whether the visit has been approved and if so the level of support available. If approved, a claim form will be forwarded to the Member.

15.3. Travel expenses

15.3.1. Travel expenses may be reimbursed between the Member's registered residential address in the United Kingdom, London home or Westminster to the city visited. Travel costs are subject to the limitations set out in section 5.

15.3.2. If travelling by Eurostar, travel up to the cost of standard premier may be reimbursed.

15.4. Subsistence expenses

- 15.4.1. Members may be entitled to subsistence limited to a maximum of 48 hours calculated at the HMRC Worldwide Subsistence Rate current at the time of the visit. The standard subsistence rate is deemed to cover all costs relating to parking, taxis, meals and refreshments.
- 15.4.2. Subsistence is calculated from the time when a Member starts their journey until their return. Subsistence rates are set in the local currency of the country being visited, but reimbursement will be paid in sterling.

15.5. Accommodation expenses

- 15.5.1. Members may be entitled to accommodation expenses limited to a maximum of two nights at the HMRC Worldwide Subsistence Rate current at the time of the visit.

15.6. Claims

- 15.6.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Members must confirm the time spent away, from the start of their journey until their return. Claims for reimbursement of expenses should be made on form EUT(C).

16. SALARIED MINISTERS AND SALARIED OFFICE HOLDERS

16.1. Secretarial expenses

16.1.1. Salaried Ministers and salaried Office Holders are able to recover expenses for secretarial assistance certified as incurred by them in the performance of Parliamentary but not departmental duties. The amount recoverable in any twelve month period commencing 1 August is subject to the specified maximum.

16.2. Spouse, civil partner and children's travel

16.2.1. Salaried Ministers and salaried Office Holders who live outside Greater London may recover travel expenses for journeys undertaken by their spouse or civil partner between their registered residential address and Westminster. Reimbursement of expenses is limited to fifteen return journeys per calendar year.

16.2.2. Members may also recover the costs incurred by each of their children, up to the age of 18 (and children over 18 still in full time secondary education until the end of the academic year in which their 18th birthday falls) on the same basis.

16.2.3. Claims under this heading should name the person to whom the claim relates.

16.3. Claims

16.3.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of spouse, civil partner and children's travel should name the person to whom the claim relates and should be submitted on form MOSPT. Claims for reimbursement of secretarial expenses should be made on form MOSA.

16.4. Travel expenses

16.4.1. Salaried Office Holders, but not salaried Ministers, who live outside Greater London and claim the Lords Office-Holder Allowance may recover from the House of Lords expenses for travel between their registered residential address and Westminster. Travel claims are subject to the limitations set out in section 5; they are not linked to recorded attendances but are normally limited to one return journey per week. The contribution towards the costs of parking or taxis is limited to £20 per day at Westminster.

17. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS WITH A DISABILITY

17.1. Background

17.1.1. Members with a disability may recover additional expenses due to their disability. Each case will be considered on its own merits.

17.2. Advance approval

17.2.1. Advance approval must be sought by submitting an application to the Members' Finance Section. Applications, which must be made in writing, are subject to the following conditions:

- the expense claimed must be necessary to enable the Member to attend the House and carry out their specifically Parliamentary duties;
- the expense claimed must not be recoverable within the normal limits;
- the nature of the disability, and the nature, duration and estimated cost of the support sought must be stated.

17.2.2. Requests by disabled Members for additional financial support may be referred to the senior consultant occupational physician for assessment.

17.2.3. Members will be advised in writing whether their application is approved. This will set out the expenses which may be claimed and any agreed financial limits.

17.3. Claims

17.3.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts and documentation (for example, a copy of an assistant's current contract of employment). Claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred should be submitted on the relevant form specified by Members' Finance.

17.4. Review

17.4.1. The entitlement to claim expenses due to a disability will be reviewed periodically.

18. FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

18.1. Background

18.1.1. Members may recover the cost of attending foreign language classes approved by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Reimbursement is limited to the first 10 hours of consultations. The Member will be required to confirm that all of the consultations have been attended before reimbursement may be made. For further details please contact the Members' Finance Section.

18.2. Advance approval

18.2.1. Members seeking reimbursement must obtain prior approval. Applications are only admissible if the course would help the Member in the performance of Parliamentary duties. Applications for approval, using form LT(A), should be sent to the Members' Finance Section.

18.2.2. The Members' Finance Section will advise the Member in writing whether the training has been approved. If approved, a claim form will be forwarded to the Member.

18.3. Claims

18.3.1. All claims for expenses must be supported by appropriate receipts. Claims for reimbursement of costs on completion of the course should be made on form LT(C) which will be sent to the Member on approval.

19. MEMBERS' PERSONAL INJURY & TRAVEL INSURANCE

19.1. Summary

19.1.1. The House maintains a personal accident and business travel insurance policy to cover Members for accidents whilst on the Parliamentary Estate, and accidents and certain other risks whilst travelling between home and the House for official Parliamentary business and whilst travelling on official Parliamentary business as covered in this guide for the following purposes:

- Committee visits and meetings;
- Parliamentary delegations;
- travel as a representative of the House;
- participation in the Lords Outreach Programme;
- other meetings and visits mandated by the House;
- travel in connection with the Armed Forces and Police Service Parliamentary schemes;
- other travel within the UK on Parliamentary business;
- travel to the Scottish Parliament and devolved assemblies;
- European travel on Parliamentary business.

19.1.2. Insurance cover is only available where specified above. Journeys in respect of All Party Parliamentary Group business other than the BAPG are not covered by this policy unless the journey qualifies for financial support under sections 13-15 of this guide.

19.1.3. It is the Member's responsibility to ensure that the policy provides sufficient personal cover.

An app for mobile devices is now available which provides details of help and travel information. This can be accessed via the web address. Members will need to register to log in to: <https://traveloracle.healix.com/Allianz>⁸.

19.2. Age limit

19.2.1. The policy is subject to certain age limits and currently provides travel cover for members who are under the age of eighty five (85) at the start of the Period of Insurance (1st August 2021) and are resident in the United Kingdom. This may be subject to change and Members may refer to the policy or contact the Members Finance section for guidance.

19.3. Excluded countries

19.3.1. Cover is not automatic in respect of travel to⁶ Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Syria or any country or part of a country where the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has issued warnings against all travel. Members intending to travel to any of these or other dangerous countries and wishing to be covered by the policy should contact the Members' Finance Section who will be able to advise further. Up-to-date travel advice can be found on the FCO website which

may also have a bearing on any travel plans: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

19.3.2. Further information can be found by viewing the policy and policy schedule details here:

<https://intranet.parliament.uk/finances/insurance/lords-insurance/>.

Should further information be required please contact the Members' Finance Section.

19.4. Claims

19.4.1. Claims should normally be made through the House of Lords Members' Finance section or, for claims relating to Parliamentary delegations, the House of Commons Overseas office. If urgent assistance is required the insurers may be contacted direct on +44(0)1483 265696 quoting Allianz policy number SZ29267324⁸. The Members' Finance Section should be notified as soon as practicable.

⁸ Correct at the date of publication of this guide.

SUMMARY TABLE

Unsalaries Members

	Daily allowance	Travel
Sittings of the House and Committee Meetings ⁹ at Westminster	£323 ¹⁰ or £162 ¹⁰	Yes (physical attendance only)
Travel within the UK for Parliamentary business at Westminster	No	Yes subject to prior approval

	Daily allowance	Travel	Accommodation and subsistence
Committee meetings and visits away from Westminster	£162 ¹⁰	Yes or Met directly by relevant office	Yes or Met directly by relevant office Subject to HMRC rates/House limits
Members of Parliamentary delegations			
Travel as a representative of the House			
Lords outreach programme			
Other mandated Parliamentary business: BAPG, BIPA, CPAUK, BGIPU, HoCMF, PCPF	£162 ¹⁰ (if the House is sitting)	No. May be met directly by the relevant body	No. May be met directly by the relevant body
Rapporteur to a Parliamentary delegation		Yes	
Armed Forces and Police Service Parliamentary Scheme business (UK activities only)			
Other travel within the UK on Parliamentary business	No	Yes subject to prior approval (except for IPT)	No
Travel to Scottish Parliament and devolved assemblies			Yes up to 1 night / 2 days subject to prior approval and House limits
European travel on Parliamentary business		Yes subject to prior approval	Yes up to 2 nights / 2 days subject to prior approval and HMRC rates

Salaried Members

	Daily allowance	Travel	Secretarial Costs
Minister	No	No	Yes Within annual max
Office holder		Yes	

⁹ Or virtual meetings of committees and sub-committees of the House (providing the Member's attendance is recorded in the minutes)

¹⁰ Rate applies from 1 April 2020 and is subject to annual review.