

Review of Members' Allowances and Expenses

Officers' Recommendation

That the Authority reviews and determines the expenses and allowances paid to:

- 1. Chair of the Authority**
- 2. Vice Chair of the Authority**
- 3. Chair of the B&PSC**
- 4. General Members**

Background

At the AGM, held on 16th July 2021, an Authority Member requested that, to recognise increased workload for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, the allowances for these positions be reviewed by the Authority.

The Review of Members' allowances and expenses became an agenda item for the Authority meeting held on 16th September 2021. At this meeting, the Chair asked that if Members concluded that the current payment to the Chair is considered, it would be his view that any potential increase should address the disproportionate low level of allowance for the Vice Chairs and the Chair of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) as compared to the Chair's allowance. It was recognised at this meeting that only Elected Members (Councillors) should vote on this matter.

On 16th September 2021, Members deferred a decision on any changes to allowances and expenses and requested that comparative data are collated.

Authorisation for Allowances and Expenses

Section 15 of The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 sets out:

- (1) The Authority may reimburse the expenses of its Members incurred in connection with attending a meeting of the Authority or otherwise carrying out the functions of the Authority.
- (2) The Authority may pay to its Members such allowances as it may determine.
- (3) In particular, the Authority may pay to a General Member who is not an employee of the MMO an allowance in respect of a loss of earnings arising from that Member's attendance at a meeting of the Authority.
- (4) The Authority must determine, before the beginning of each financial year, the circumstances in which a Member is eligible under this article for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in that year or the receipt of an allowance in respect of that year.

Current Situation

The allowances and expenses for Members have remained at the same level since the Authority's AGM in June 2019 when Members agreed the following:

- The Chair of the Authority receives an annual salary of **£4,000**.
- The Vice Chair/s of the Authority receive **£400** per year, paid quarterly in arrears.
- The Chair of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee receives **£400** per year, paid quarterly in arrears.
- General Members can claim up to **£100** for each Authority meeting that they attend.

- There is no allowance for Members who have been requested by the Authority to attend additional (other) meetings.

The attendance allowance (for Authority/Sub-Committee meetings) reflects that some Members would lose earnings because of missing a day at work. In addition, General Members can claim any travel costs incurred in order to attend the meetings. Mileage allowance is in line with Devon CC rates.

Officers have collated the following information from other IFCA's regarding allowances and expenses:

IFCA	Chair	Vice Chair	General Members	Notes
D&S IFCA	£4000 pa	£400 pa (also B&PSC Chair)	£100 attendance allowance	General Members can claim travel costs and mileage (@ DCC rate per mile)
CIFCA	£2751.05 pa	£1237.96 pa	No attendance allowance	Travel and subsistence - standard rail & £0.45 per mile mileage rate. Carers allowance can be claimed
EIFCA	Not applicable	Not applicable	No attendance allowance	The positions of the Chair and Vice Chair are only open to Elected Members (Councillors) with no expenses paid by EIFCA. Expenses are paid by County Council
K&E IFCA	£5000 pa	£3000 pa	No attendance allowance	General Members can claim mileage and car park expenses, but no financial loss allowance
NIFCA	No allowance	No allowance	Loss of earnings can be claimed	Travel & subsistence can be claimed. One of Chair and Vice Chair must be a General Member and the other a Councillor. If the Chair is a General Member, they can claim loss of income just like other General Members
NEIFCA	No allowance	No allowance	No attendance allowance	Travel and Subsistence - standard rail & £0.45 per mile mileage rate
NWIFCA	No allowance	No allowance	No attendance allowance	Only travel and expenses. No additional payments for Committee work or promoted roles
SIFCA	£1000 pa	No allowance	No attendance allowance	Expenses are paid to all Members, to include mileage, parking or additional travel costs and food (if lunch is required between meetings)
SusIFCA	£2000 pa	£1000 pa	No information	

Background Papers/Links:

- [The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order \(2010\)](#)
- [The Authority meeting minutes \(agreement of allowances\) - June 2019](#)
- [The Authority meeting minutes \(deferral of decision making\) – September 2021](#)