

OFM – International Travel Business Case

Director and Division	Dylan Hughes, First Legislative Counsel, OLC, OFM
Name of traveller(s), reason for proposed travel, and proposed dates of travel	Dylan Hughes (First Legislative Counsel, Director) James George (Senior Legislative Counsel, Deputy Director)] To attend the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC) and ancillary events during and after the conference. Home CALC Conference 2026, Singapore CALC is a duly accredited organisation to the Commonwealth. It is the core professional association in the Commonwealth dedicated to the profession of legislative drafting. The CALC conference is traditionally attended by counsel from almost every jurisdiction in the Commonwealth. As such, it is a unique opportunity to build professional networks and learn from experiences elsewhere. The conference lasts for three days. Aside from numerous seminars etc. (on the theme “Legislating in a Changing World”), there will be a general meeting of CALC, and the CALC Council will be elected. It is also proposed that James attends the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies’ law reform conference held at the same venue on the two days prior to the CALC conference: Conferences Calras Travelling 11 July – 18 July 2026 (James), 13-17 July (Dylan)
Details of destination(s)	Singapore
Mode of transport (flight, train, etc). Where there is a choice, why has this mode been chosen?	Flight (and train to Heathrow airport, which is the most cost-effective means of getting to the airport). Flying from Cardiff airport would not be viable due to the increased cost and travel time.
Why is it thought necessary or appropriate for this travel to be undertaken (at public expense)?	Attendance at the conference brings the following opportunities to OLC and the Welsh Government (WG) (almost all of which are not available, either cost-effectively or at all, elsewhere) - • to promote the interests and standing of Wales and the WG within the international drafting community and the

How does it relate to the performance of official duties?	Commonwealth; and to demonstrate a commitment by the WG to Commonwealth values; • to establish, maintain and bolster beneficial links with other drafting offices and governments, and to have discussions with other drafting offices on matters of direct and immediate relevance to the work of the WG; • to help set the future agenda of CALC; • to highlight OLC as a centre of drafting excellence (especially in the context of attendance from all other UK drafting offices); • Promote the interests and standing of Wales as a separate country within the Commonwealth: the CALC conference is a major event within the Commonwealth, and most governments have sent delegates to every conference since the creation of the association (as an affiliate body of the Commonwealth Law Association) in 1983. In 2026, the heads and a number of senior members of all three of the other UK drafting offices are attending the conference. This includes the UK First Parliamentary Counsel (Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary) Jessica De Mountenay. In this context it is important that the WG's interests are represented, and that OLC participates in the formal and informal discussions surrounding the event. The conference provides an opportunity to show that the WG is a centre of drafting excellence, and to share and add to the wealth of experience and knowledge that we have built up. Attendance shows that the WG is prepared to engage with, teach and learn from the rest of the Commonwealth. • Training and development sessions: the conference (along with its ancillary events) is unique in the amount of opportunities it provides. On his return, James will cascade the knowledge obtained over the course of the event to colleagues in OLC and, so far as relevant, beyond. • Making a presentation about WG initiatives at each conference: relevant both to law reform and legislation are the WG/OLC initiatives in relation to the development of Codes of Welsh law (and other related matters concerning the development of Welsh law). James (as the lead drafter of the primary legislation for both the historic environment and planning Codes for Wales) will present papers at each conference. • Opportunity to help set the future agenda of CALC: CALC has significant status in relation to the development of law across the Commonwealth. The general meeting will
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	shape CALC's activities for the next two years and will elect a Council (upon which Neil Martin from OLC currently sits as one of two Europe region representatives). This year the First Parliamentary Counsel, seconded by the Scottish Chief Parliamentary Counsel, has nominated Dylan for election as the next President of the CALC Council. Although CALC is relatively small and specialist, it would be a considerable honour for the Welsh Government were Dylan to be elected.
Estimated cost, and Source of Funding (DRCs? Other?)	Conference registration – £500 each £275 for CALRAs Bus to Heathrow - £50 each Return flight London to Singapore – approx. £1100-1800 Accommodation 4/5 Nights including breakfast - £700/£850 Lunches and dinners – approx. £300 each Other expenses (public transport/taxis) – approx.. £20 each Approximate total: £3150 each (£6300 in total) (It is anticipated that savings on subsistence will mean that the actual cost is marginally lower.) Funding has been discussed with REDACTED SECTION 40 who has indicated that this can be managed within existing budgets.
Any other information you want to Add?	Unfortunately the cost involved has increased since this was first envisaged due to increases in air fares caused by the impact of the war in the middle east. Cheaper airfares were considered but they involve stopping in the middle east, which is not recommended by the Foreign Office.
For completion by Director: Approved: 30 April 2026	