



The Scottish Parliament
a Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 8 February 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

- Alison Johnstone MSP (chair)
- Claire Baker MSP
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Christine Grahame MSP

Apologies:

- David McGill

In attendance:

- Michelle Hegarty
- Huw Williams, Janice Crerar
- Sally Coyne
- Jennie Chinembiri
- Lynsey Hamill, Becky Thomson, Lorna Foreman
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 25 and 31 January, 1 and 7 February 2024.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted that the following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 5 - noted an update on an upcoming loan of textiles from the Great Tapestry of Scotland Trust to the Parliament's Art Collection to coincide with the Scottish Parliament's 25th Anniversary.
 - Noted the planned programme of Members' survey interviews.
 - Noted an update from the Clerk/Chief Executive on a senior staffing restructuring exercise.
 - Noted an update on the implications for MSPs of the City of Edinburgh Council's property tax changes.
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 11 – noted and agreed travel costs associated with a visit to Nepal organised, organised and funded by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Officeholders: contingency requests

3. The SPCB agreed the following contingency requests:
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 6 – the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and the Standards Commission for Scotland;
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 7 – the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People; and
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 8 – the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Gaelic Language Plan Annual Report – SPCB (2024) Paper 9

4. There is a requirement under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 for the SPCB to report annually to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) on progress related to its Gaelic Language Plan. This paper provided the Annual Report for April 2022 – March 2023.
5. The SPCB approved the report and agreed it would be submitted to BnG by the end of February and published on the SPCB's website.

International Relations activity report – SPCB (2024) Paper 10

6. The SPCB welcomed the update on engagement activities organised through the International Relations Office. The SPCB discussed how the Office was engaging with MSPs to raise awareness of opportunities and the steps being taken to ensure that the benefits realised from both inward and outward visits were being fed back into Parliament to achieve wider learning across the Parliament and the organisation.
7. The SPCB noted the report.

Staffing matter

8. The SPCB received a briefing on a staffing matter.

SPCB Investigation

9. Having agreed the draft report at the previous meeting, the SPCB noted that a copy would be provided to Mr Matheson before the end of the week and that he would be given up to 2 weeks to provide any further representations.
10. The SPCB discussed possible next steps.

Date of next meeting

11. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 22 February 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
February 2024