



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Conveners group

Minutes

3rd Meeting, 2022 (Session 6) Wednesday 30 March 2022

Present:

Liam McArthur MSP, Convener

Clare Adamson MSP, Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Claire Baker MSP, Economy and Fair Work Committee

Siobhian Brown MSP, COVID-19 Recovery Committee

Ariane Burgess MSP, Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee

Jackson Carlaw MSP, Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

Richard Leonard MSP, Public Audit Committee

Gillian Martin MSP, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (Virtual)

Martin Whitfield MSP, Standards and Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Elena Whitham MSP, Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Apologies were received from:

Finlay Carson MSP, Joe FitzPatrick MSP, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Stephen Kerr MSP, Dean Lockhart MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, and Audrey Nicoll MSP

1. **Minutes:** The Conveners Group agreed the minutes of the last meeting. The Group also agreed to continue its consideration of gender balance on Committees at a future meeting.
2. **Post-EU scrutiny issues:** The Group considered the scrutiny challenges in relation to post-EU scrutiny issues as part of its strategic priority on cross-committee working.

It considered recommendations from the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture (CEEAC) Committee in relation to the SSI Protocol and SI Protocol 2.

It agreed with the CEEAC Committee recommendation that the SSI Protocol should be discontinued as it no longer facilitates proportionate or effective scrutiny. It was agreed that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee would have final consideration of the process.

It also agreed that a formal review of SI Protocol 2 should be undertaken by Scottish Parliament officials on behalf of committees.

The Group also considered a number of post-EU scrutiny gaps identified by the CEEAC Committee, including in relation to the operation of SI Protocol 2, and noted that officials were working to address these gaps especially with regard to the levels of information provided by the Scottish Government. The Group would be provided with an update from officials prior to summer recess.

- 3. The legislative consent process for UK Parliament Bills:** The Group discussed delays to the lodging of legislative consent memorandums (LCMs) by the Scottish Government, and the detrimental impact this has on committee scrutiny. The Group agreed to write to the Minister for Parliamentary Business as a follow up to previous consideration of this issue.

The Group also considered the lack of provision in Standing Orders that apply in circumstances where a UK Bill makes relevant provision and the Scottish Government is not seeking the Parliament's consent. The Group agreed to invite the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to investigate this issue further.

- 4. Witness diversity:** The Group agreed the questions to be asked in the committees witness diversity survey, and that it should go live on 12 May 2022, the start of the next parliamentary year. The Group also noted that a paper on the Parliament's diversity strategy would be brought to a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 27 April 2022

Contact details for the clerk

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