



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 09.00. (hybrid)

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Susan Duffy
- Catherine Fergusson
- Tommy Lynch
- Janice Crerar
- Fergus Cochrane
- Roy Devon
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 20 January 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted and agreed arrangements to lay a motion on 9 February amending the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to reflect proposed changes relating to regional offices.

3. The SPCB had dealt with the following items by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - 3.1 Noted an update on operational arrangements in Holyrood following the First Minister's statement on 25 January, including the planned re-opening of the public gallery in the chamber, at 1m physical distancing, following the February recess.
 - 3.2 Noted details of a programme of MSP interviews to gain feedback on service delivery.

Covid-19 Update - discussion

4. The SPCB discussed the changes to on-site arrangements in more detail, particularly around access for the public. The SPCB agreed the plans and noted a further amendment to the Standing Orders would be required to cover arrangements for the chamber gallery.
5. The SPCB noted that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee was currently leading on an inquiry looking into hybrid working in the context of parliamentary business and anticipated that the SPCB would be invited to give evidence to that enquiry in due course.

Constitutional and operational look ahead

6. The Chief Executive provided a brief overview of the key issues on the Leadership Group's radar for the organisation in the year ahead including parliamentary scrutiny following the UK's exit from the EU.

Officeholders

Scottish Human Rights Commission – Paper 4

7. The SPCB agreed a request to extend 2 temporary staff contracts.

Updates

8. The SPCB noted an update on the Public Audit Committee's consideration of the Auditor General's s22 report in relation to the office of the Ethical Standards commissioner. The SPCB also noted proposals for a number of additional new officeholders and discussed the potential implications for the SPCB and parliamentary committees.

International relations activities report – Paper 5

9. The SPCB noted the latest routine update on international engagement activities covering the period since the start of the current session. The SPCB discussed the measures being put in place, as set out in the International Strategy, to consider the environmental impact of any proposed international travel co-ordinated by the International Relations Office.
10. The SPCB recommended that the team engage with the Parliament's Conveners Group to help increase committees' awareness of existing networks and improve their ability to link into relevant engagement activities and programmes of work.

Events – Paper 6

11. The SPCB agreed that the Scottish Parliament would host the Edinburgh International Culture Summit in August 2022. In agreeing to this event, the SPCB noted the need to enable more MSPs to participate and for specific benefits and outputs for the committees taking part to be identified up front.
12. The SPCB also agreed to host an associated event provided a committee was identified to chair.

Crèche service – Paper 7

13. The SPCB discussed the results of a recent survey of MSPs, their staff and SPCB staff and the investigations of childcare options for those attending the Parliament. Additional information was requested ahead of further discussions.

Security – Paper 8

14. The SPCB welcomed the work done to progress the projects commissioned on security provision for MSPs and their staff. The SPCB agreed funding from within existing budgets for a package of personal security measures.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 24 February 2022.

SPCB secretariat
February 2022