



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 30 June 2022 at 09.00

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Jackson Carlaw MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Tracey White
- Bill Ward
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Becky Thomson
- Helen Birrell
- Roy Devon
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Huw Williams
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 16 June 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted that the following items had been considered by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - Noted the additional information provided to the Finance and Public Administration Committee in relation to its inquiry into the Parliament's new website project.
 - Agreed temporary relaxation of the overnight expenses limit due to exceptional circumstances in Edinburgh on 22 June.

- Agreed a temporary extension to access to the overnight Edinburgh Accommodation Allowance due to late finishing of business combined with rail service restrictions.
- Agreed to cease the Homeworking Allowance provision, put in place to support public health measures during the pandemic, from the end of September 2022. The provision was put in place to align with temporary changes made by HMRC during covid and those changes have now been reversed. Depending on personal circumstances, the SPCB noted that SPCB and Members' staff may still be eligible to claim tax relief directly from HMRC for working remotely.

Chief Executive's Report

3. The Chief Executive presented his regular report, highlighting in particular the continuing high demand for support with Members' Bills and the good progress being made with the recruitment of additional staff resources in line with the SPCB's approved budget bid. The SPCB noted and recorded its thanks for the planning and arrangements put in place to support the work of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee during its evidence-taking sessions on the Gender Recognition (Reform) Bill.
4. The SPCB noted the Report.

Chamber and committee infrastructure

5. The SPCB received a briefing on the planned investments in broadcasting services during Session 6 and an indication of possible expenditure. Detailed proposals for individual projects would be presented to the SPCB later in the year as part of budget discussions.
6. The SPCB discussed a number of aspects of the chamber and committee systems including security of access; the time taken for voting; improvements aimed at making remote participants feel more engaged/connected to proceedings; and the ability to connect mobile devices in the chamber. Issues with the quality and reliability of connectivity would be raised with the Business Information Technology team.

[Claire Baker joined the meeting]

Corporate cards

7. The SPCB received an update on arrangements for introducing corporate cards for use by MSPs and their staff. Following a successful pilot run over the previous year, communications would be issuing to all Members ahead of the start of a phased roll-out beginning over the summer.

Local office security – Paper 45

8. The SPCB agreed work aimed at improving security around access arrangements to a local office.

Festival of Politics 2022: update – Paper 46

9. The SPCB noted an update on planning and preparations for the 2022 Festival of Politics. The SPCB welcomed, in particular, the diversity of the programme and the arrangements being introduced around ticketing.

Temporary art exhibition – Paper 47

10. The SPCB approved arrangements to display a gallery version of the new Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth sculpture, titled 'Antelope', in the Scottish Parliament.

Any other business

11. The SPCB declined a request for a Former Member pass.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 15 September 2022.

SPCB secretariat

June 2022