



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020 at 9am, in Q1.03, QH

Present:

- Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair)
- David Stewart MSP
- Ruth Davidson MSP
- Andy Wightman MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Sandra White MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Judith Morrison
- Tommy Lynch
- Janice Crerar
- Lis Craig
- Allan Campbell
- Greig Liddell
- Joanne McNaughton
- Huw Williams
- Eric MacLeod
- Graeme Donoghue
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the previous meeting held on 20 February 2020.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Pandemic planning

3. The SPCB received a briefing from officials who had been monitoring the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus over recent weeks. The Corporate Body discussed its approach to pandemic planning and considered the options open to it in limiting exposure to the virus. At present the focus was on promoting hand and respiratory hygiene as the main measures in preventing the spread of the virus. Hand sanitiser dispensers were in place at entrances and around the building to supplement the recommended good hand washing practice.
4. Officials were in regular contact with other UK legislatures and the Scottish Government. This included representation in the Scottish Government Resilience Room (SCoRR).
5. It was noted that mitigation steps may need to be increased in the future as risks changed or emerged. The SPCB would be kept updated and would respond accordingly in line with official advice.

Officeholders: strategic plans – SPCB(2020)paper 12

6. The SPCB had a number of questions relating to the draft Strategic Plan for the Scottish Human Rights Commission and agreed to write to the Commission to seek clarification.
7. The SPCB noted the draft Strategic Plan for the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Officeholders: contingency applications – SPCB(2020)paper13

8. The SPCB agreed contingency applications from the Ombudsman and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Uprating of allowances – spcb(2020)paper 14

9. The SPCB agreed the mechanism and indices to be applied to uprate the Members' Expenses provisions for the financial year 2020-21 and going forward. In so doing, the SPCB was clear that individual MSPs remained responsible as employers for setting and managing their staff's pay and cost of living award within the provisions of the Scheme.
10. In relation to the Staff Cost Provision (SCP), the SPCB agreed to use the average of ASHE and the Average Weekly Earnings indices. Both these indices are wage related and taken together would better reflect wider pay conditions. As in previous years, the SPCB agreed to continue using the RPI index to uprate the Office Cost Provision (OCP). Increase of the Party Leaders' Allowance would continue to be calculated on the basis of a combination of the SCP and OCP.

11. The SPCB also confirmed that the planned review of the Staff Cost Provision element of the Scheme would be undertaken in the current session, with a view to implementing any changes at the start of Session 6.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 19 March 2020.