



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 22 February 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Christine Grahame MSP
- David McGill

In attendance:

- Michelle Hegarty
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Huw Williams, Janice Crerar
- Gillian Baxendine, Sarah Swift, Kate Smith
- Lynsey Hamill, Becky Thomson, Stephen Wright, Lorna Foreman
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 8 February 2024 and the minute of the decision taken by correspondence on 16 February 2024 relating to the SPCB Investigation.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB received an update on the SPCB Investigation and reiterated its continuing commitment to confidentiality to ensure fair and due process to all parties throughout the investigation.

Officeholders: strategic plans – SPCB (2024) Paper 13

3. The SPCB considered the draft strategic plans for 2024-28 received from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) and the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC).
4. In relation to the plan submitted by the SHRC, the SPCB noted concerns at the considerable amount of work included in the plan which might have additional cost implications, especially given the pressures already identified for the contingency available. On a related matter, the SPCB also noted that officials were in correspondence with the Scottish Government about funding for the additional duties for the SHRC resulting from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.
5. The SPCB noted the Strategic Plans.

Payment for participation policy – SPCB (2024) Paper 14

6. The SPCB agreed a policy on payment for public participation in committee work. This did not include people who were participating as witnesses in committee meetings. The Policy would come into force from 1 April 2024 and payments were expected to be met from within existing resources for this session.

Protest policy

7. The SPCB had an initial discussion about a review of its Protest Policy, covering a range of issues related to protesting. It was agreed to engage with party groups to seek input.

Staffing matter – SPCB (2024) Paper 15

8. The SPCB agreed the proposals set out in the paper.

Death in service provision – SPCB (2024) Paper 12

9. The SPCB agreed to introduce a death in service lump sum provision for MSPs' staff, comparable with the provision in place for SPCB staff.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 7 March 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
February 2024