



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 12 September 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Martin Whitfield MSP, Roz Thomson, Alison Fraser, Catherine Fergusson, Rebecca Macfie
- Sara Glass, Mairi Pearson
- Tommy Lynch, Letitia Longworth-Campbell
- Becky Thomson, Helen Birrell
- Alan Durward, Roy Devon
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Allan Campbell, Acting Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 27 June 2024.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted that the following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:

- Paper 50: the findings of the investigation by parliamentary officials into the alleged misuse of parliamentary resources by some Members' offices, which was published on 31 July 2024.
- A briefing note on the decision taken on a third Subject Access Request, which was circulated on 23 July 2024.
- Paper 51: the Lobbying Register's sixth annual report, which was circulated on 5 September 2024.

Members' Bills – SPCB (2024) Paper 52

3. The SPCB discussed a range of issues around the management of Members' bills, including how to ensure the resources supporting members' bills are distributed in an equitable way, and that bills are introduced as early in the session as possible.
4. The SPCB agreed:
 - to invite the Non-Government Bills Unit to produce draft SPCB guidance on Members' Bills, to include (among other things) a focus on the size of proposals for bills and the timing of bills, for issue to all members at the start of Session 7; and
 - to invite the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to consider any matters with a view to seeking changes to the Standing Orders, specifically Rule 9.14.9 in relation to consultation responses.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Disability Provision Application – SPCB (2024) Paper 53

5. The SPCB agreed a request for travel costs to be met from the disability provision of the Scheme.

Reimbursement of Members Expenses Scheme – Use of Resources – SPCB (2024) Paper 54

6. The SPCB noted that a breach of the rules on distribution of publications had occurred.
7. In light of the actions taken by the Member, the SPCB agreed to take no further action in relation to the complaint. The SPCB further agreed to inform the member of the options available to them to ensure future compliance with the Scheme, and to note that in the event of a further breach, the SPCB would seek recompense from the Member.

Updated ABC and Anti-Fraud Policies – SPCB (2024) Paper 55

8. The SPCB welcomed this paper outlining the new Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC) and Fraud policies. The SPCB agreed to:
- approve the policies as drafted; and
 - note that these policies will apply to SPCB members, who will be required to participate in training when that becomes available.

Security upgrades – SPCB (2024) Paper 56

9. The SPCB agreed requests for security works at a Member's home address and a Member's constituency office.

Parliament flag – SPCB (2024) Paper 57

10. The SPCB considered a paper on a Parliament flag, and agreed not to progress the matter at this time.

Any Other Business

11. There was no other business raised for discussion.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 26 September 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
September 2024