



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 21 December 2023 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
- Huw Williams, Janice Crerar
- Jennie Chinembiri
- Sara Glass, Mairi Pearson
- Susan Duffy, Roy Devon
- Alan Balharrie
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 7 December 2023.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted an update on the investigation into a Member's use of parliamentary resources. The SPCB then noted that the following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:

- SPCB (2023) Paper 62: Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland – following provision of additional information, agreed the terms and conditions of appointment for the new Commissioner as required under the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Act 2023.
- SPCB (2023) Paper 79: Standards Commission for Scotland – agreed terms and conditions of appointment for a new member.

Meeting with members of the Standards Commission for Scotland

3. As the funder of officeholders, the SPCB had instigated a series of meetings to engage with individual officeholders on an annual basis. The SPCB welcomed the following members of the Commission:
 - Paul Walker, Convener
 - Helen Donaldson
 - Ashleigh Dunn
 - Anne-Marie O'Hara
 - Suzanne Vestri
4. The Convener provided an initial overview of the administration and work patterns of the Commission which was followed by a discussion with the SPCB covering a range of areas including the review and updating of the code of conduct for councillors and the provision of support and guidance; the general nature of complaints and how they have changed over recent years; and the expanding officeholder landscape.
5. The SPCB thanked the members for their attendance.

International Parliamentary travel – Paper 80

6. In May this year the SPCB agreed in principle travel by Members in respect of attendance at Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council of Europe - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities meetings. It was also agreed that the International Relations Office would provide additional information on specific costs and travel arrangements relating to individual visits.
7. The SPCB discussed the details of 2 MSPs, supported by one official, attending a CoR Contact Group meeting in Brussels on 24 January 2024 and approved the proposed arrangements as set out in the paper.

Parliamentary travel request – Paper 81

8. The SPCB approved the costs for a Member to travel to Dublin being met through the Members' Expenses Scheme.

Major Events & Exhibitions programme 2024-25 – Paper 82

9. The SPCB discussed proposals for the 2024-25 programme of major events and exhibitions. The SPCB agreed the programme as set out in the paper and also agreed that, due to pressure of other events and likely business demands at that time, no Member-sponsored events would be supported during the last 2 weeks in June. Two existing bookings for the that period would be honoured if they were unable to be rescheduled.

Development of the Art Collection – Paper 83

10. The SPCB agreed to participate in the Royal Scottish Academy New Contemporaries Programme 2024 with a view to identifying and collecting relevant artwork by early career artists to add to the Parliament's Art Collection.

Review of mobile device policies

11. The SPCB discussed areas being considered as part of the review. A report on the review would be presented to a future meeting.

AOB

FOI request

12. The SPCB noted that 2 FOI requests had been received in relation to Members' data usage and that the information held would be released that week.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 25 January 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
December 2023