



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 9.15am**

### **Present:**

- Alison Johnstone MSP (chair)
- Claire Baker MSP (items 3-7)
- Jackson Carlaw MSP (items 3-7)
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Christine Grahame MSP

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive
- Heather MacLennan
- Catriona McCallum, Callum Thomson
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Nick Connelly
- Mark Brough
- Joanna Purves
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

### **Item 1: Meeting with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland**

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS) and welcomed Nicola Killean to the meeting.
2. During the meeting, the SPCB and the Commissioner discussed the significant new powers the CYPCS was granted following the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, and examples of how these powers have been used to date, to uphold and protect children's rights.
3. Other areas discussed during the meeting included how the CYPCS collaborates with children and young people to inform their work; engages with public authorities to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people and plans to engage with elected Members following the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026.
4. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for her attendance.

## **Item 2: Meeting with the Scottish Human Rights Commission**

5. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and welcomed:
  - Professor Angela O'Hagan (Chair of the Commission)
  - Shelley Gray (Member of the Commission)
  - Claire Methven-O'Brien (Member of the Commission)
  - Rosemary Agnew (Member of the Commission)
  - Aaliya Seyal (Member of the Commission)
6. Areas discussed during the meeting included the outstanding elements of the SHRC's independent review of its governance arrangements, the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee's report conclusion that there was a case for a wider review of the SHRC's remit and powers and possible future legislation in this area.
7. The SHRC's work to inform the Independent Review of Fatal Accident Inquiries relating to deaths in custody in Scotland and current shared service arrangements were also discussed during the meeting.
8. The SPCB thanked the Chair and Members of the Commission for their attendance.

## **Item 3: Officeholder Recruitment - Convener of the Electoral Management Board, Terms and Conditions – Paper 4**

9. The SPCB agreed the terms and conditions of appointment for the Convener of the Electoral Management Board.

## **Item 4: Previous meeting**

10. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2026.

## **Item 5: Matters arising**

11. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 15 January 2026:
  - The SPCB approved minor revisions to the Mobile Device Policy. It also noted a memo from the Deputy Chief Executive on how recently updated SPCB policies will be communicated to all MSPs and their staff.
  - The SPCB noted a memo from the Director of People, Communications, and Inclusion regarding a review of the Scottish Parliament's Dignity at Work arrangements.

12. The SPCB also received an update from the Clerk/Chief Executive following recent correspondence with the Scottish Government in relation to issues relating to the interaction between dual mandates legislation and the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act and noted forthcoming subordinate legislation to address this matter.

### **Item 6: Independent review of complaints process - review report and next steps – Paper 5**

13. On 19 June 2025, the SPCB appointed Rosmary Agnew as the review lead to undertake an independent review of complaints. At today's meeting, the SPCB welcomed Ms Agnew to the meeting to consider her report findings.

14. Following discussion, the SPCB agreed to the action plan set out in the paper, and the approach to publication and communication of the report on 4 February 2026.

### **Item 7: Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Claim Review – Paper 6**

15. The SPCB considered a request for a claim review and agreed that the Member could claim a portion of the costs of an advert on a school planner with calendar from their 2025-26 Engagement Provision.

### **Date of next meeting**

16. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 12 February 2026.

**SPCB Secretariat**  
January 2026