



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 25 February at 6.45pm

Present:

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party
- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Hannah Johnson, Gender Audit Adviser to the Welsh Parliament
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Apologies:

- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Beatrice Wishart MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party
- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour Party

In attendance:

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group
- Alan Durward
- Linda Peters
- Lucy Miller

Officials supporting the Advisory Group and officials from the Office of the Presiding Officer also attended.

Item 1: Disability audit of the parliamentary estate

1. In January 2024, the Advisory Group commissioned a disability audit of the parliamentary estate.
2. The Group received an update on the recently completed disability audit and next steps required to implement the recommendations. The Group welcomed the audit reports and thanked officials for the update and ongoing work.

Item 2: Legacy Report

3. The Advisory Group considered its draft Legacy Report which was approved, subject to minor revisions. The Group thanked officials for their contributions to the report.
4. It was agreed that officials would liaise with the Presiding Officer to implement the suggested revisions and finalise the report.

Action: Office of the Presiding Officer, GSPAG Secretariat

5. The Group also noted that the Presiding Officer had written to Party Leaders, on behalf of the Advisory Group, regarding the diversity of candidate lists.

Item 3: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising

6. The Group agreed the minute of the meeting on 17 December 2025.

Update on Recommendation 11

7. The Advisory Group agreed a draft letter to be issued by the Presiding Officer to all MSPs standing down at the end of Session 6 inviting them to provide feedback to the GSPAG Secretariat.

Action: Office of the Presiding Officer, GSPAG Secretariat

Update on Recommendation 24

8. The Advisory Group received an update in relation to GSA recommendation 24, which focussed on changes to Standing Orders to allow for acting SPCB members.
9. It was agreed that considerations on recommendation 24 should be included in its Legacy Report.

Item 4: Update on Recommendation 3

10. The Advisory Group received an update regarding GSA recommendation 3 and welcomed the report on job sharing.
11. The Group agreed that the Job Share Report should be referenced in its final Legacy Report.

Date of next meeting

12. There were no further meetings of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group scheduled prior to the Scottish parliamentary election.
13. The Presiding Officer closed the meeting with thanks to Advisory Group members and all officials who had supported the work of the Group across the session.

**Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group Secretariat
February 2026**