

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE BODY: NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

Introduction

1. The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body's principal function is its duty under section 21 of the Scotland Act 1998 to provide, or ensure that the Parliament is provided with, the property, staff and services required for the Parliament's purposes.

2. Under the amended Scotland Act 2012, the legislation provides that the members of the Corporate Body shall be the Presiding Officer and at least four Members of the Parliament appointed in accordance with the Standing Orders. Appointment is under Rule 3.7 or Rule 3.8. While members are elected to the Corporate Body as individuals and not as party representatives, membership in previous Sessions has comprised a member from each of the main parties. In Session 5 this resulted in there being 5 members; at the end of the Session these were: Carlaw Jackson, Liam McArthur, David Stewart, Sandra White and Andy Wightman.

3. Rule 3.6.2 of the Standing Orders specifies that the number of appointed members of the Parliamentary corporation may be varied after a general election, following a decision of the Parliament on a motion of the Parliamentary Bureau, but shall always comprise a minimum of four.

4. Rule 3.6.3 requires that any variation to the number of appointed members shall be made prior to the election of Corporate Body members and no further variation may be made within the same parliamentary session.

5. This is therefore the only opportunity this Session for the Bureau to change the number of Members elected to the Corporate Body. Unless the Parliamentary Bureau determines otherwise, the Corporate Body will comprise the Presiding Officer and 5 members.

Conclusion

6. The Bureau is invited to consider the membership of the Corporate Body in Session 6. This would include whether it wishes to bring forward a motion under rule 3.6.2 to vary the number of members of the Corporate Body and, if so, to what number.

**Office of the Clerk
May 2021**