

Parliamentary Bureau – Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme (SPPS) Trustee Board

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Bureau to allocate Chamber time for consideration of an SPCB motion concerning the continuation in office of Gordon Macdonald as a Fund Trustee of the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund.

Background

2. Under Schedule 1, Rule 8 of the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009, a Fund Trustee appointed as a participating member who ceases to be a participating member may continue in office only if the Scottish Parliament resolves that they should do so.
3. Gordon Macdonald, who was appointed as a Fund Trustee as a participating member, has ceased to be a participating member and has become a Scheme Pensioner Trustee. Notification of this change of circumstances has been provided in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
4. At its meeting on 24 September 2026, the SPCB agreed that a motion should be brought before Parliament to allow Gordon Macdonald to continue to hold office as a Fund Trustee notwithstanding this change of status. Background information considered by the SPCB is attached at Annexe A.

Decision

5. The Bureau is invited to agree to allocate Chamber time for consideration of the SPCB motion set out below.

Draft SPCB motion:

Stephen Kerr MSP on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body: Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund – That the Parliament notes that Gordon Macdonald, a Fund Trustee of the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund appointed as a participating member, has ceased to be a participating member and has become a scheme pensioner within the meaning of Rule 12(1)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009, and further notes that notification of this change of circumstances has been provided in accordance with Rule 12(2)(a) and, in accordance with Rule 12(2)(b), resolves that Gordon Macdonald shall continue to hold office as a Fund Trustee notwithstanding the change of status from participating member to scheme pensioner.

Parliamentary Business Team
September 2026

Annexe A

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Thursday 24 September 2026 (Session 7)

Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme (SPPS) – Trustee Board Composition and Trustee Change of Status

Executive summary

1. This paper invites the SPCB to consider the current composition of the Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme (SPPS) Trustee Board and whether any changes are required.
2. The Board of Trustee is responsible for managing and administering the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund in accordance with the Scheme rules. The Annex attached to this paper sets out the role of the Fund Trustee. The current Board of Trustees is:

Pauline McNeill MSP (Chair)
Murdo Fraser MSP
Gordon Macdonald
Mark Ballard
3. Schedule 1, Rule 8 of the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009 sets out the arrangements for the appointment of Fund Trustees. The SPCB is responsible for nominating individuals for appointment, with Fund Trustees formally appointed by resolution of the Scottish Parliament.
4. In making nominations, the SPCB must use its best endeavours to ensure that the Trustee Board includes both a participating member and a scheme pensioner. Rule 6 also provides that the Trustee Board must comprise no fewer than three and no more than six Fund Trustees.

Issues and options

5. The Trustee Board currently comprises four Fund Trustees representing four political parties. Two Trustees are participating members, one is a deferred member and, following the May 2026 election, one Trustee ceased to be an MSP and has become eligible to serve as a Scheme Pensioner Trustee. This change in circumstance provides an opportunity to ensure that the Trustee Board continues to comply with the requirements of the Act while maintaining an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience.
6. The Trustee who has become eligible to serve as a Scheme Pensioner has notified the Presiding Officer and the other Fund Trustees of the change in

circumstances. Under the Act, the Trustee's appointment will terminate six months after the change in status occurs unless the Scottish Parliament resolves otherwise. The Trustee has indicated a wish to continue serving on the Trustee Board. Any changes to the composition of the Trustee Board requiring parliamentary approval should be brought forward by the SPCB.

7. The current Trustee Board complies with the requirements of the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009 and no changes to its composition are required. However, the SPCB may wish to consider whether the number of Trustees should be changed, up to the statutory maximum of six.
8. Should the SPCB wish to change the number of Trustees, it must have regard to any recommendations made by the current Fund Trustees when considering potential nominations.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications arising from this paper.

Publication Scheme

10. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Next steps

11. Following the change of status of the Fund Trustee to Scheme Pensioner, a draft resolution will be prepared for SPCB approval.
12. If the SPCB wishes to change the number of Trustees, the SPPS Secretariat will take this forward by:
 - co-ordinating the nomination process, having regard to any recommendations from the current Fund Trustees;
 - referring the matter back to the SPCB for a decision; and
 - progressing any agreed appointment(s) through Parliament by resolution.

Decision

13. The SPCB is invited to consider whether the current number of Trustees remains appropriate or whether it wishes to change the size of the Trustee Board.

Pay and Pensions Office
September 2026

Role of the Fund Trustees

Fund Trustees are responsible for managing and administering the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund in accordance with the Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme rules.

In carrying out this role, Fund Trustees:

- oversee the Fund's assets and investments;
- ensure that the Scheme is operated in the interests of its members and beneficiaries; and
- discharge the legal, statutory and fiduciary duties that apply to pension scheme trustees.

Fund Trustees are also expected to undertake and maintain appropriate Trustee training. This should include completion of The Pension Regulator's Trustee Toolkit, a free online learning programme designed to help trustees develop the knowledge and understanding required to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. Further information about the Trustee Toolkit, can you be found here: [Home | tpr](#)