



Conveners Group

Rt. Hon. Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

18 June 2025

Dear Presiding Officer,

Remote participation in committee proceedings

The Conveners Group ('the Group') considered your correspondence to all Members dated 7 February 2025 at its meeting on 30 April. It agreed to write to you to make you aware of its discussion and what it has agreed.

The Group noted your expectation that corporate backgrounds will be used when Members participate remotely in the Chamber. The Group discussed this in the context of committee proceedings and agrees in principle that corporate backgrounds should be used when Members participate remotely in committee proceedings.

The Group also noted wider considerations that impact committee proceedings when Members participate remotely. This includes the rules on quorum and substitution, the attendance of witnesses and the common practice of administering divisions using a show of hands. These considerations mean that the visibility of all Members, whether in person or online, is of particular importance during committee proceedings. The Group therefore agrees that Members should have their cameras switched on for the duration of committee proceedings, unless a different approach has been agreed with the convener.

Notwithstanding this discussion and what has been agreed in principle, the Group notes that it remains a matter for each convener to ensure that Members conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner during committee proceedings. This agreement therefore does not affect a convener's authority to agree different arrangements for virtual participation in committee proceedings on a case-by-case basis.

I would be happy to discuss the Group's consideration of these issues further with you if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Liam McArthur MSP
Deputy Presiding Officer
Convener of the Conveners Group

Contact: Conveners Group, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email ConvenersGroup@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.