



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer

Thursday 08 October 2026

Jenni Minto MSP
Convener
Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Dear Jenni,

Conveners' Remuneration and Committee Engagement

I wish to make the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee aware of work currently being undertaken in relation to committee effectiveness.

When I was elected Presiding Officer, I made clear that strengthening the effectiveness of the Parliament's committees would be a priority.

Effective scrutiny is central to the Parliament's role in holding Government to account, and your predecessor Committee recognised in its Committee Effectiveness report the vital leadership role that Conveners play in achieving that. In particular, its conclusion that the influence and status of a convener is central to whether they can foster a sense of independence in a committee from the Scottish Government and deliver effectively on a committee's scrutiny function

In recognition of the additional responsibilities carried out by Conveners, the SPCB has asked officials to explore options for remuneration. This would recognise the demands of the role and the importance the Parliament places on effective committee leadership. I will be writing to Committee Conveners shortly to make them aware of this development.

Alongside this, I want to support committees to engage more directly with communities across Scotland. As part of this, I am keen for all committees to commit to meeting formally or informally outside Edinburgh once per year. I will be raising this with Conveners for discussion at the next Conveners Group meeting.

While these are not procedural matters for your committee, as a courtesy it is important that the committee is made aware of these developments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "G".

Kenneth J Gibson MSP
Presiding Officer