



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer

Martin Whitfield MSP
Convener
Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

By email

20 November 2023

Dear Convener

Thank you for your letter of 15 November following the Committee's consideration of the proxy voting pilot evaluation.

I welcome the Committee's decision to propose to the Parliament that it makes provision for a proxy vote permanent. I am content with the proposal to incorporate the eligibility criteria in Standing Orders and to allow a Member to apply on any day on which the Parliament is sitting. I note the Committee's view that the requirement for direct notification by a Member should remain.

I appreciate the Committee's careful consideration of the issues and will, of course, be happy to work with the Committee to issue a revised scheme to cover administrative arrangements in line with the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer