



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 29 October 2020 at 9.00am (Q1.03 and video link)

Present:

- Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair)
- David Stewart MSP (vc)
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Sandra White MSP (vc)
- Andy Wightman MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill (vc)
- Michelle Hegarty
- Sara Glass (vc)
- Lis Craig (vc)
- Erin Borthwick (vc)
- Lorna Foreman (vc)
- Lynsey Hamill (vc)
- Brian Mitchell (vc)
- David Hershaw (vc)
- James Vinestock (vc)
- Billy McLaren (vc)
- James Drummond (vc)
- Susan Duffy (vc)
- Roy Devon (vc)
- Fiona McDougall (vc)
- Janice Crerar (vc)
- Eric MacLeod (vc)
- Joanne McNaughton (vc)
- Huw Williams (vc)
- Lisa Creamer (vc)
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Item 1: Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of previous meetings held on 1 October 2020.



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Matters arising

Issues by correspondence

2. The following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - 2.1 SPCB(2020)Paper 53 – the SPCB agreed procedures for handling Members' travel costs related to the return of unused rail tickets which had not be used due to the covid-19 restrictions.
 - 2.2 SPCB(2020)Paper 54 – the SPCB noted an update on the proposed programme of events for the on-line Festival of Politics 2020.
 - 2.3 SPCB(2020)Paper 55 – the SPCB noted an update on security works.
 - 2.4 the SPCB had received an update on the latest Scottish Government changes to Regulations relating to the wearing of face coverings, specifically relating to the workplace.

Staff cost provision review – oral

3. The SPCB had a further discussion on progress of the Review and agreed next steps.

Covid-19: update

4. There were a number of matters discussed under this item:

General update – oral

5. The SPCB noted that officials would be analysing the impact for the Parliament of the introduction of 'tiers' to be announced later that day by the First Minister.
6. The SPCB also asked that officials continue to develop planning around arrangements for facilitating interaction between MSPs following the election in 2021 in the context of the likely ongoing restrictions due to covid-19.

Health and wellbeing support – SPCB(2020)Paper 59

7. The SPCB agreed paid special leave arrangements for MSPs' staff where they experienced a change to their caring arrangements due to covid-19. The SPCB also noted plans to run a 'Wellbeing Week' in November which would include sessions specifically for MSPs' staff.



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Crèche services – SPCB(2020)Paper 56

8. The SPCB noted an update on the current and likely usage of the crèche services during the covid-19 restrictions affecting access to Holyrood. The SPCB reaffirmed its commitment to providing a service to assist people in engaging with the business of Parliament and identified the current period as an opportunity to take stock and review the service contract.
9. The SPCB agreed to discontinue the current crèche service contract which was due to expire in February and asked officials to bring proposals back to the SPCB for a revised service with the aim of a new contract being in place as soon as feasible at the start of the new session.

Correspondence from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee

10. The SPCB discussed a response to a letter from the SPPA Committee in relation to its inquiry into the resilience of the Scottish Parliament's practices and procedures in light of Covid-19.

Lobbying register annual report – SPCB(2020)paper 57

11. The SPCB noted an update from the Lobbying Registrar including a reference to the review of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 currently being undertaken by the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny (PAPS) Committee.
12. The SPCB noted the Annual Report which would now be published.

Art collection development policy: review – SPCB(2020)paper 58

13. The SPCB welcomed this latest review of the Art Collection Policy, in particular the addition of a stated aim to increase the diversity of artists practicing in Scotland being represented in the Parliament's Collection. The SPCB also welcomed the commitment to increasing the provision of accessible information about the Collection, especially in light of the reduced physical access to Holyrood during covid-19.
14. The SPCB asked officials to consider how the Art Collection might be developed to encompass an ongoing history of the Scottish Parliament and the people who contributed to and helped shape it.
15. The SPCB approved the Policy for publication.



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Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 12 November 2020.

SPCB secretariat

October 2020