



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2020 at 9am, in Q1.03, QH

Present:

- Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair)
- David Stewart MSP
- Ruth Davidson MSP
- Andy Wightman MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Sandra White MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Fergus Cochrane
- Colin Chisholm
- Roy Devon
- David Hershaw
- Brian Mitchell
- Joanne McNaughton
- Eric MacLeod
- Graeme Donoghue
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2020.

Matters arising

2. A number of matters had been considered by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - 2.1. Scottish Information Commissioner - the SPCB approved the appointment of a temporary Accountable Officer.
 - 2.2. SPCB(2020)Paper 6: Parliamentary Travel – the SPCB noted the details of the travel and approved the associated costs.
 - 2.3. National Museums Scotland (NMS) – the SPCB agreed proposals for NMS to acquire a prototype model of the chamber desks.

Chief executive's report

3. The Chief Executive presented his Report. Highlights included:
 - The recent engagement with the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and the planned meeting with SPCB members to discuss a Parliament-wide approach to climate change and sustainability.
 - The continuing work on developing various online public engagement platforms. The SPCB noted the very positive feedback from Sandra White MSP and David Stewart MSP on their experiences of using some of the new tools through their committees.
4. The SPCB also recorded its congratulations to Tracey White, Group Head of Chamber, Reporting and Broadcasting who was recently recognised as Stonewall's Senior Champion of the Year at the 2020 Stonewall Awards for her work as "Leadership Champion" of the Parliament's LGBT+ network.
5. The SPCB noted the Report.

International relations: update – SPCB(2020)paper 7

6. This paper provided the regular update on core international engagement work undertaken by the Scottish Parliament through the International Relations Office.
7. The SPCB noted some of the recent positive engagement activities and discussed how ideas and learning were brought back and fed into the Scottish Parliament.
8. The SPCB noted the Report.

International relations: developing relations – SPCB(2020)paper 8

9. The SPCB noted progress in developing sustained, longer term, one-to-one relationships with other legislatures and international organisations and agreed the focused approach proposed. The SPCB welcomed the work done to date by the International Relations Team in this area and the learning opportunities it presented for MSPs and the organisation.

Festival of politics – SPCB(2020)paper 9

10. This paper provided a summary report on the 2019 Festival and set out initial proposals for the 2020 Festival.
11. The SPCB welcomed the feedback on another successful Festival, noting in particular that the increasing number of returning attendees was an indication that this was becoming a recognised event in the annual calendar.
12. Looking ahead to the 2020 Festival, the SPCB agreed a number of administrative arrangements including that, despite the potential for additional cost, panellists and participants should be encouraged, where reasonable, to look at more sustainable forms of travel.

Canongate wall: quotations – SPCB(2020)paper 10

13. The SPCB agreed proposals for new quotations to be added to the Canongate Wall. Details would be announced shortly.

[Liam McArthur MSP joined the meeting]

Catering tariffs – SPCB(2020)paper 11

14. The SPCB agreed the tariff increases for the catering outlets for 2020-21. The SPCB also requested further information on the Parliament's food waste disposal arrangements.

AOB

15. The SPCB noted recent correspondence relating to the Staff Cost Provision element of the Members' Expenses Scheme and to MSPs' staff pay. The SPCB was due to consider the annual uprating of the Scheme at its next meeting.

Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 5 March 2020.