



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 12:50pm, in Q3.02, QH

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Liam McArthur MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Judith Morrison
- Tommy Lynch
- Greg Black
- Joanne McNaughton
- Huw Williams
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

COVID-19 briefing

1. For those members unable to attend an earlier briefing provided by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Scotland, a summary was provided. Some key points were noted including:
 - All Government announcements made would be based on advice from the 4 home nations' CMOs.
 - The UK would today be moving into the 'Delay' phase of its response to coronavirus. The Delay phase would be likely to last for a number of months.
 - Anticipated levels of infection and impacts.

- Any steps taken would not be with a view to stopping the spread of the virus but rather to slow it down and flatten the likely peak in infection numbers.
2. In addition to its responsibilities in supporting the work of Parliament and MSPs, the SPCB was also mindful of its responsibilities and duties as an employer and for meeting health and safety requirements in relation to the parliamentary campus.
 3. The SPCB discussed the planning done to date. The CMO's clear advice at this stage was that there were unlikely to be any public health benefits to restricting public access at the Parliament at this stage. The SPCB therefore agreed to work on the basis that the Parliament's sitting pattern and engagement activities would continue as planned for next week. Given the rapidly developing situation, this would continue to be reviewed on a daily basis.
 4. The SPCB also agreed a temporary amendment to its special leave policy and to the Members' Expenses Scheme, introducing special leave provision for covid-19 related absence and changing the qualifying period for access to temp staff cover. Information about these changes, together with an updated list of FAQs, and a reminder of sources for the latest health advice would be circulated to all staff and MSPs as a priority. This information would be regularly updated in light of developing advice.

Date of next meeting

5. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 19 March 2020.