



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 11 June 2020 at 9.00am, via video conference

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Tommy Lynch
- Judith Morrison
- Mairi Pearson
- Tracey White
- Bill Ward
- Andrew Mylne
- Susan Duffy
- Joanne McNaughton
- Huw Williams
- Eric MacLeod
- Graeme Donoghue
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held 28 May 2020.

Brexit update

2. The SPCB noted a brief update on Brexit matters as they relate to the Scottish Parliament. Points included:
 - Currently in the transition period which is due to end on 31 December 2020

- The impact of COVID-19 had delayed passage of the UK government's Brexit related bills and other legislation, potentially making the post summer recess period particularly busy with Brexit related legislation in the Scottish Parliament.
- With an extension to the transition period unlikely, there would be a significant amount of secondary legislation to consider before the end of December 2020, with the potential for increased pressure on Scottish Parliament committees.

COVID-19 briefing

3. The SPCB noted the regular update on covid-19 related matters.

Planning

4. The SPCB discussed planning assumptions for Holyrood in the context of the Scottish Government's recently published 'routemap' for easing of restrictions, the Regulations and associated public health guidance. The SPCB acknowledged that all planning assumptions would be heavily caveated by the public health advice at the time. While it was expected that the Scottish Government would move to implement some or all of its phase 2 measures the following week, it was not anticipated that these would have any significant impact on Holyrood or MSPs' local offices. However, SPCB agreed that a primary focus in this phase should be supporting Members with the necessary preparatory work to re-open local offices, expected to be in phase 3.
5. The SPCB also agreed that current on-site arrangements would remain in place until Holyrood returned on 11 Aug, given the very limited onsite business and the significant works required to prepare for the start of the new parliamentary year. SPCB noted that in phase 3 it may be possible for more Members and their staff, as required, to return to work, albeit still within social distancing and building capacity limits. It was acknowledged that working from home for many passholders, where feasible, would remain a default position for a longer period of time.
6. The SPCB also agreed that public access would be focussed initially on participation in parliamentary business. Proposals on phasing the wider public engagement programme, from after the October recess, would be considered later in the summer.
7. The SPCB acknowledged the pressures of balancing its duty to support Members and the business of Parliament with its duty as regards the health and safety of those working in and visiting the building as lock down eased. It agreed the current planning assumptions would be reviewed after each 3weekly review by the Scottish Government.

Support to MSPs on re-opening local offices – SPCB(2020)Paper 25

8. This paper provided information on the support and guidance being prepared for MSPs and their staff for the re-opening of their local offices once easing of

restrictions allowed. The SPCB agreed the proposed measures and the topics to be covered in the guidance.

Sound and voting project: update – SPCB(2020)Paper 26

9. This project was initiated to replace the current sound and voting consoles and associated equipment installed in the debating chamber, an essential system in the delivery of parliamentary business. The impact of covid-19 had resulted in a review of the timetable and scope of the project.
10. The SPCB noted the revised focus of work and the update provided on the progress of the project.

AOB

11. SPCB members raised some issues for discussion including the processing of Members' Bills and MSPs' staff welfare.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for Thursday 25 June 2020.