



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2021 at 09.00, Q1.03 and via Teams

Present:

- Alison Johnstone MSP (Chair)
- Claire Baker MSP
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Christine Grahame MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Willie Heigh
- Lynsey Hamill
- Judith Morrison
- Tommy Lynch
- Cristine Livingstone
- Sara Glass
- Huw Williams
- Joanne McNaughton
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 26 May and 3 June 2021.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB had noted/agreed the following in correspondence during the election campaign recess period:

2.1 SPCB(2021)Paper 24 – appointment of an Acting Ethical Standards Commissioner

- 2.2 SPCB(2021)Paper 25 – determinations by the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner
- 2.3 SPCB(2021)Paper 26 – Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme Valuation Report
- 2.4 SPCB(2021)Paper 27 – SGHHC Committee costs
- 2.5 Note on covid-19 arrangements up to the end of June 2021.

Session 6 Strategic Plan – SPCB(2021)Paper 28

- 3. The SPCB's strategic plan sets out the day to day priorities in delivering parliamentary services and the wider objectives to meet changing circumstances and improvement opportunities. It also provides the context for setting SPCB budget bids and medium-term financial planning.
- 4. The SPCB had an initial discussion of the draft and provided comments and feedback on the content and language. A final version would be developed over the summer for final approval.

Covid-19 management update – SPCB(2021)Paper 29

- 5. The SPCB noted a summary of the key points and processes in place to support safe delivery of parliamentary business within the restrictions imposed by covid-19 regulations, public health advice and staffing and budgetary resources.
- 6. The SPCB agreed:
 - 6.1. To recommend to the Bureau that public access to the chamber public gallery remain restricted until the end of the October recess. Officials would continue to monitor the situation and provide recommendations if it was possible to reintroduce public access prior to this date.
 - 6.2. To re-introduce limited and controlled access by journalists to the chamber media gallery from Tuesday 15 June 2021.
 - 6.3. That officials should pursue an application to be an approved centre for the provision of lateral flow testing kits to all passholders. The SPCB agreed its policy stance was to encourage all passholders to undertake regular testing, especially before coming on site at Holyrood. Testing would be voluntary but was an important aspect of ensuring collective safety and the continuance of parliamentary business.
 - 6.4. Access arrangements to Holyrood over the summer recess.

Scottish Parliamentary Service (SPS) staff pay negotiations – SPCB(2021)Paper 30

- 7. The SPCB noted the current proposal from the Trade Union partnership regarding the SPS staff pay award for 2021-22 and agreed a negotiating remit for the Deputy Chief Executive to commence formal negotiations.

AOB

Hybrid contributions to business in the chamber

8. The SPCB discussed procedures around remote contributions to chamber business and the preference that MSPs taking part in debates should be in the chamber if they are in Holyrood. Officials were looking into ways of better facilitating remote contributions and the PO agreed to raise the procedural matter with the Business Bureau.

Date of next meeting

9. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 24 June 2021.

SPCB secretariat
June 2021