



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 09.00, Q1.03 (hybrid)**

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- Alan Balharrie
- Fergus Cochrane
- Callum Thomson
- James Johnston
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Victoria Barby
- Judith Morrison
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary
  
- ACC Tim Mairs, Police Scotland
- Chief Supt Sean Scott, Police Scotland

**At the start of the meeting the Presiding Officer wished to record her thanks to all those who contributed to the planning and delivery of the Session 6 Opening Ceremony on Saturday 2 October.**

### **Previous minutes**

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 23 and 29 September 2021.

## **Matters arising**

2. The SPCB had dealt with the following items by correspondence since the previous meeting:
  - Update on the 2021 Festival of Politics programme
  - Update on SPS staff pay award
  - SPCB(2021)Paper 50 – agreed a contingency request from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.
  - SPCB(2021)paper 51 – approved a request from the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner in respect of adviser fees.
  - SPCB(2021)Paper 52 – noted the Lobbying Register Annual Report and approved it for publication.
  - SPCB(2021)Paper 56 – approved a request for an additional regional office in the West Scotland Region.
  - Agreed to seek an extension to the Temporary Rule in Standing Orders suspending access to the chamber gallery by members of the public.

## **Security: Police Scotland briefing**

3. ACC Tim Mairs and Chief Supt Sean Scott attended to provide the regular briefing to the Corporate Body on general security matters as they related to the Scottish Parliament.

## **Security: cyber security briefing**

4. The SPCB noted an overview of the ongoing work undertaken by the Business Information Technology team to protect the Parliament's systems. Guidance for those using mobile devices was being developed and sessions aimed at raising general cyber security awareness were planned.
5. The SPCB thanked the Group Head of Digital Services for his update.

## **International Relations Strategy – SPCB(2021)Paper 58**

6. The SPCB discussed the International Strategy for Session 6, the key aims of which include developing the Scottish Parliament's reputation and providing opportunities for continuous professional development for both MSPs and staff through sharing skills and knowledge with other legislations and organisations.
7. The SPCB discussed virtual and in-person engagement and how the work of the International Relations Office (IRO) could benefit the work of committees. The SPCB encouraged IRO to liaise with the Conveners Group in order to improve a co-ordinated approach and obtain greater benefits from engagement activities.
8. The SPCB agreed the International Strategy for Session 6.

## **Appointment of advisers to a committee – SPCB(2021)Paper 59**

9. The SPCB discussed the proposal to appoint up to 4 advisers to be available to support the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. The number of advisers was discussed. The wide remit of the Committee was noted and it was confirmed that any briefings provided by the advisers would also be available to other subject committees.
10. The SPCB approved the request.

## **Members' Expenses Scheme: disability application – SPCB(2021)Paper 60**

11. The SPCB agreed an application to meet the Member's staff travel costs from the disability provision of the Scheme.

## **Members' Expenses Scheme: winding up costs – SPCB(2021)Paper 61**

12. The SPCB considered an application for support under the exceptional expenses provision of the Scheme. A former Member was unable to meet all of the winding up costs for her local office due to unexpectedly large dilapidation charges. The Member had worked to reduce the charges but there was still a shortfall in the funding available.
13. Guidance and advice on leases and, in particular, dilapidation costs had been issued to Members at the beginning of both session 5 and session 6. Members were advised to seek legal advice before entering into lease agreements. It was noted however that the former Member had been in her current office since before any guidance was issued. On that basis, and given the efforts made by the former Member to reduce the costs due, the SPCB agreed the application for additional support as set out in the paper.

## **Sustainable Development – SPCB(2021)Paper 62**

14. The SPCB reviewed the Annual Sustainable Development Report. This was the final report against the current published targets. The SPCB thanked staff for the work done in helping the Parliament achieve the targets and in producing the Report and agreed publication.
15. The SPCB agreed to further discuss climate change and sustainable development plans for session 6 given the significant changes this may require.

## **AOB**

## **Signage**

16. With regard to implementation arrangements for SOCPA designation, the SPCB noted that signage required for the parliamentary grounds was being finalised and would be circulated for approval.

### **Date of next meeting**

17. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 4 November 2021.

**SPCB secretariat**  
October 2021