



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2022 at 09.00. (hybrid)**

### **Present:**

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

### **Apologies:**

- Maggie Chapman MSP

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Tommy Lynch
- Janice Crerar
- Lynsey Hamill
- Helen Birrell
- Tracey White
- Bill Ward
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Huw Williams
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

### **Previous minutes**

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 10 March 2022.

### **Matters arising**

2. Following provision of the additional information requested at the previous meeting, the SPCB had approved the recruitment terms for new members of the Scottish Human Rights Commission.
3. The SPCB had also received an update following the First Minister's covid-19 statement to Parliament on 15 March and agreed the resulting on-site organisational arrangements.

## **Chief Executive's Report**

4. The Chief Executive presented his regular report, highlighting in particular an update on steps to add MSPs to the statutory list of prescribed persons (the designation of MSPs in law as people to whom whistleblowers can disclose information and receive legal protection). There had been a delay in the Order being updated in Westminster but in the meantime parliamentary officials had been working on drafting guidance for Members and looking at the procurement of training by experts in this area.

## **Covid-19 Update - update**

5. The SPCB noted that the First Minister was due to give her next update to Parliament on Wednesday 30 March. It was expected this may signal further changes, the most significant being the removal of face coverings legislation and the requirement for 1 metre physical distancing or screens (currently required where face coverings are not worn in indoor communal spaces). Officials would monitor and advise the SPCB of any changes following the statement.
6. The SPCB also agreed arrangements to support Members in undertaking work in local offices to improve ventilation in line with Scottish Government guidance.

## **Annual uprating of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Paper 20**

7. The SPCB agreed the annual uprating of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme for 2022-23. A notice setting out all increases and budget levels for 2022-23 would be circulated to MSPs.

## **Additional regional office application – Paper 24**

8. The SPCB agreed an application to establish an additional regional office in Highlands and Islands region as provided for under the provisions of the Members' Expenses Scheme.

## **Police Investigations and Reviews commissioner – Paper 21**

9. The SPCB discussed a letter received by the Presiding Officer from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans about a proposal for the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner and agreed the terms of its response.

## **Officeholder governance: s22 Audit Report – Paper 22**

10. The SPCB discussed recommendations made by the Auditor General for Scotland in his Section 22 report on the accounts and governance of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland as they related to the SPCB's governance role and agreed arrangements to be taken forward.

## **Security – Paper 23**

11. The SPCB approved an application for security related works in a local office.

## **Hybrid platform for supporting parliamentary business**

12. The SPCB received a presentation on work being undertaken to improve the platform and processes for supporting hybrid working in the chamber and committees, with particular focus on facilitating interventions in a hybrid environment. It was agreed that officials would offer to provide a presentation to party group meetings and follow this up with a general 'drop in' session in the Holyrood Room for Members. The new system was scheduled to be introduced after the summer recess.
13. The SPCB also noted that an improved audio system would be installed in the chamber during the summer recess.

## **Date of next meeting**

14. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 21 April 2022.

**SPCB secretariat**  
March 2022