



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2023 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lorna Foreman
- Lynsey Hamill
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- David Hershaw
- Neil Mackie
- Janice Crerar
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 23 February 2023.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

SPCB staff pay negotiations

3. The SPCB received an update on pay negotiations for parliamentary staff. Details would be communicated to staff later in the day.

Planned strike action

4. The Parliament had agreed a business motion on 8 March which included plenary business on Wednesday 15 March, the day of planned strike action. The SPCB was committed to ensuring that all Parliamentary business could proceed as planned and this would include facilitating committee witnesses attending in person.
5. A further update on access for the public to committees and the chamber gallery would be provided early next week. As on the previous day of strike action in February, there would be no access to Holyrood for the public for tours, events, Cross-Party Group meetings, the public café or walk-in visits. The car park would also be closed to passholders.

Uplift to the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Paper 15

6. The SPCB discussed some of the individual provisions and asked officials to review these to ensure they still provided appropriate support to enable Members to carry out their parliamentary duties.
7. The SPCB agreed the uprating of the Members' Expenses Scheme provisions as detailed in the paper.

Catering services and tariff update – Paper 16

8. The SPCB received an update on the performance of the catering outlets and welcomed the improving subsidy position following the impact of the covid-19 pandemic over the previous couple of years.
9. The SPCB agreed an increase to the catering tariffs for the restaurants and the Events & Hospitality Brochure. Other outlets would continue to be set in line with local market rates. Specific information would be circulated ahead of an increase to the cost charged for single use cups.
10. The SPCB also agreed that the counter area in Queensberry House would be open to all passholders as a coffee bar during busy periods of the day.

Diversity Monitoring and Pay Gaps Report 2022 – Paper 17

11. The SPCB noted the report which analyses the diversity profile and pay gap information of the parliamentary staff group. It includes comparisons to the previous year's reporting and to Scottish and United Kingdom

datasets. The data is used to inform and measure actions aimed at creating a diverse, respectful, and inclusive working environment.

12. The SPCB agreed publication of the Report.

Officeholder contingency requests – Paper 18

13. The SPCB approved requests for contingency funding from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Electoral Reform

14. The Scottish Government issued a consultation paper on Electoral Reform with the aim of introducing legislation on several electoral issues later this session. Following an initial discussion at its previous meeting, the SPCB had a further discussion on those areas of the consultation which impacted on the Parliament and/or the SPCB and agreed the terms of a response to the consultation.

Late sittings

15. The SPCB had commissioned officials to consider the impact that late sittings of the Parliament had on Member and staff welfare, on provision of services and effective operations. Following an initial discussion at the previous meeting, the SPCB had a further discussion and agreed the terms of a letter to the Parliamentary Bureau setting out some concerns it had with the effects of late plenary sittings.

Protests in the chamber

16. The Presiding Officer raised the issue of the recent increase in protests/interruptions to business in the Chamber and the SPCB discussed how such disruption might best be prevented and responded to.

17. The matter would be discussed further at a future meeting.

Date of next meeting

18. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 23 March 2023.

SPCB secretariat
March 2023