



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 18 May 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
- Jennie Chinembiri
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

## Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 4 May 2023.

## Matters arising

2. The SPCB discussed the uptake of tickets for the public gallery in the chamber. Although there had been a slight dip, the average uptake over the preceding 4 week period was still good at 91% and the public allocation for the current week was sold out. The SPCB agreed to continue to monitor.

3. The SPCB also noted items that had been circulated for information since the previous meeting including:
  - Correspondence with the Public Audit Committee;
  - an update on the Petition for Judicial Review – Gender recognition reform (Scotland) Bill on submission for Royal Assent Order 2023; and
  - an update on officeholders.

## **Chief Executive's Report**

4. The Chief Executive presented his monthly report. Some key elements included updates on: committee activity and engagement; promotion of the Parliament's Gaelic Language Plan; actions taken to improve compliance with the Lobbying Register; and services provided by People & Culture staff.
5. The SPCB noted the report.

## **Parliamentary travel – Paper 35**

6. The SPCB approved travel by MSPs in connection with membership of the Committee of Regions and the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. In doing so, the SPCB highlighted that regard should be given to gender balance of membership wherever possible.

## **Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: use of resources – Paper 36**

7. The SPCB noted that a breach of the rules on distribution of publications had occurred. In light of the actions taken by the Member, the minimal costs involved and the significant additional costs that would have been incurred if an alternative service had been used, the SPCB agreed to take no further action.

## **Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: use of resources – Paper 37**

8. The SPCB noted that a breach of the policy on format of publications had occurred. Given the Member had already re-paid the cost of the publication and acknowledged and apologised for the error, the SPCB agreed that the Head of Allowances write to the Member reminding him of the rules on behalf of the SPCB and that no further action would be taken.

9. The SPCB requested that a general reminder be circulated to all MSPs reminding them of the rules on content and format of publications issued using parliamentary resources.

## **Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: parliamentary travel – Paper 38**

10. The SPCB approved a request from a Member for the cost of travel and overnight accommodation to be met from the Members' Expenses Scheme.

## **AOB**

11. The SPCB discussed correspondence received from John Swinney MSP and agreed the terms of the response from the Clerk/Chief Executive.

## **Date of next meeting**

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 1 June 2023.

**SPCB secretariat**  
May 2023