



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at 9.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Claire Baker MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Robert G, National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)
- Becky Thomson, Helen Birrell
- Janice Crerar
- Roy Devon, Gillian Baxendine
- Judith Morrison, James Vinestock
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 21 September 2023.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted the following matters had been dealt with by correspondence since the last meeting:
 - Agreed the terms and conditions of appointment for the chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission

- Noted travel arrangements and approved associated costs for parliamentary travel to the Nordic Council meeting in Oslo.
- Declined, by majority, a request under the Flag Flying Policy to fly the flag of Israel during the week beginning 9 October 2023. The Presiding Officer was travelling abroad at the time and the remaining four members responded to the urgent request by correspondence. It was recognised that individual Members of the Scottish Parliament would have the opportunity to express and record their views on the events of 7 October in Parliament. The SPCB agreed to review the Flag Policy.

Security works – Paper 61

3. The SPCB approved requests for security works at local offices and home addresses based on reports by Police Scotland.

Security briefing

4. The SPCB received details of a programme of security briefings to be offered to MSPs. The SPCB welcomed the range of topics to be covered including overseas travel, cyber security, geo-specific issues, etc, and agreed that an initial introductory briefing should be provided to party groups to ensure all MSPs were aware of the programme.

Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland – Paper 62

5. The SPCB discussed terms and conditions of appointment for a new Patient Safety Commissioner. Officials were asked to undertake further benchmarking with equivalent posts in other legislatures.

Standards Commission for Scotland – Paper 63

6. The current Convener of the Standards Commission was due to demit office on 6 May 2024. The SPCB agreed that an external recruitment exercise should be undertaken for the new Convener with internal applications being encouraged. The SPCB agreed the terms and conditions of appointment and membership of the recruitment panel.

Scottish Parliament 25th anniversary – Paper 64

7. The SPCB discussed and agreed an outline programme of events and activities to mark the Scottish Parliament's 25th anniversary.

Procurement Annual Report – Paper 65

8. The SPCB wished to record its thanks and appreciation for the service of Veronique Malcolm, Head of Procurement, ahead of her retirement at the end of the month. It was regretted that she had been unable to attend this meeting to enable them to do so in person.

9. The SPCB welcomed her comprehensive report which set out progress and achievements in the delivery of the SPCB's Procurement Strategy over the previous year. The SPCB approved the Annual Report for publication.

Former Members' Association

10. The SPCB noted that officials had been engaging with the Former Members' Association about what support it could provide to the Parliament and its Members. The SPCB welcomed the approach and agreed that contributions from former members, particularly in providing advice and support to those leaving the role of MSP, could be very beneficial.
11. The SPCB agreed to sponsor the Association in as far as enabling access to the Parliament and to provide the secretariat as a point of contact for the Association.

Any other business

12. The SPCB noted items that had been raised with them by colleagues. These would be taken forward by officials.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 9 November 2023.

SPCB secretariat

October 2023