



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 16.20pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Jackson Carlaw MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Lynsey Hamill
- Judith Morrison
- Susan Duffy
- Becky Thomson
- Sally Coyne
- Stephen Wright
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Disruption in the chamber

1. An urgent meeting of the SPCB was called to discuss the interruptions to business in the Chamber that had occurred earlier in the day during First Minister's Questions (FMQs).

2. The Presiding Officer opened the meeting by making clear that the disruptions at FMQs earlier in the day were wholly unacceptable and that parliamentary business should not be disrupted by the actions of a small number of people, regardless of their cause, especially given the impact it had on other visitors. A priority for the SPCB was ensuring the safety and security of all those working in and visiting the Parliament and the SPCB was concerned to note the particular impact on other visitors in the gallery resulting from this latest disruption.
3. The SPCB received an update on the installation of storage units to facilitate removal of mobile devices from those entering the committee and chamber galleries to observe parliamentary business.
4. The SPCB noted that the Presiding Officer had authority to exclude individuals from the Chamber and to determine the period of that exclusion. The SPCB agreed that the visitor access policy would be updated to explicitly state that anyone who wilfully disrupts business would be excluded from the public galleries. The SPCB also noted that the Presiding Officer intended to write to those individuals who had been removed from the Chamber earlier that day to inform them of their exclusion from the galleries for the next six months.
5. The SPCB then discussed possible additional actions including the introduction of more stringent measures to identify those who disrupt parliamentary proceedings.

SPCB secretariat
March 2023