



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2024 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
- Judith Morrison
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Huw Williams
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

## SPCB Investigation

1. The SPCB met to conclude its investigation into public complaints about Michael Matheson MSP's use of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, use of SPCB facilities and services, and breaches of SPCB policies; assigned to them to investigate and determine under the Code of Conduct (described in the relevant legislation and the Code of Conduct as "excluded complaints").
2. The SPCB considered representations from Mr Matheson on its draft report and agreed how these were to be dealt with in the final report.
3. The SPCB decided that, based on the evidence presented in the Investigation Report and its findings in fact, Mr Matheson had breached

sections 7.3 and 7.4 of the Code of Conduct and thereby upheld the three complaints within the SPCB's remit.

4. While the costs to the public purse had been addressed, the SPCB agreed that the Nolan Principles of Standards in Public Life, embedded in the Scheme and underpinning the appropriate use of parliamentary resources, represented the high standard by which all Members must abide and in which the SPCB considered the public must continue to have confidence.
5. Therefore, having determined the complaints and so fulfilled its responsibilities under the Code of Conduct, the SPCB agreed, in accordance with paragraphs 9.6(c) and (e) of the Code of Conduct, to refer its report to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for its consideration under Standing Order 6.4.2 of whether it was appropriate for the recommendation of any sanctions to be applied against the Member in respect of these findings.
6. The SPCB made no recommendation to the SPPAC regarding removal of Mr Matheson's entitlement under the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme.
7. The SPCB agreed its Investigation Report, including all annexes containing the evidence relied upon in reaching its decision, would be published in line with its legal obligations once the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee completed its consideration.
8. In the interest of fairness to all, and to avoid prejudicing the Committee's proceedings, the SPCB would make no further comment until that time.

**SPCB Secretariat**  
March 2024