



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 11 December 2025 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, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive
- Heather MacLennan
- Mairi Pearson, Kerry Twyman
- Roy Devon
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Joanna Purves
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

### **Item 1: Meeting with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner**

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner (SBC) and welcomed Dr Brian Plastow to the meeting. During the meeting, developments in the use of biometrics technology were discussed as well as the legislation underpinning the use of biometrics data in Scotland. The SPCB also noted that the Scottish Government is undertaking a statutory review into the SBC's functions and heard from the Commissioner on additional bodies he would welcome oversight of in the future.
2. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for his attendance.

## **Item 2: Meeting with the Scottish Information Commissioner**

3. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) and welcomed David Hamilton to the meeting. During the meeting, the significant increase in Freedom of Information (FOI) appeal requests to the SIC was discussed, including the use of artificial intelligence to make these appeals. Other areas discussed included how public bodies are resourcing their FOI function, the Commissioner's capacity to undertake intervention work and the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill, currently under consideration by the Parliament.
4. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for his attendance.

## **Item 3: Previous meeting**

5. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2025.

## **Item 4: Matters arising**

6. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 27 November 2025:
  - Paper 74: The SPCB approved requests from the Ethical Standards Commissioner, the Standards Commission for Scotland and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland to update the terms and conditions for their staff to a 35-hour working week.
  - Paper 75: The SPCB noted an update on the Festival of Politics 2025 programme, as set out in the paper and requested that future updates include comparator year information.
  - Following consideration of minor revisions to the Protest Policy at its meetings on 30 October and 20 November 2025, the SPCB approved a final version by correspondence.
  - The SPCB also noted:
    - the Chief Executive Report highlighting activities across the Scottish Parliament from October to December 2025 and incorporates Quarter 2 Finance, Performance and Workforce Data reports
    - a memo on the Inclusive Parliament Review
    - the dates the Parliament would be closed over the recess period and for the staff day on 16 January 2026.

## **Item 5: MSPs: Use of parliamentary resources policy**

7. In October 2024, the SPCB commissioned a review of all SPCB policies applicable to Members as part of the Code of Conduct, in advance of Session 7. The MSPs: Use of parliamentary resources policy has been reviewed as part of this work.
8. The SPCB noted that the policy has been updated to provide further clarity on what is considered a parliamentary resource under the policy, what Members responsibilities are, and the potential consequences should there be a breach of the policy. Following discussion, the SPCB approved the revised policy.

## **Item 6: Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: exceptional expenses provision: Paper 72**

9. The SPCB agreed to defer consideration of this item. The paper was subsequently withdrawn.

## **Item 7: Major events and exhibitions: Paper 73**

10. The SPCB discussed proposals for the programme of major events and exhibitions for the first half of 2026-27. The SPCB agreed to the programme as set out in the paper. It also asked officials to review the current approach to public engagement events, including the Festival of Politics, for consideration by the Session 7 SPCB in due course.

## **Any other business**

11. The SPCB noted the significant volume of parliamentary business scheduled up to the end of Session 6 which may result in later Chamber sitting times. It was therefore agreed that evening events, currently scheduled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March 2026 should be cancelled and rescheduled for as early as possible in Session 7.

## **Date of next meeting**

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 15 January 2026.

**SPCB Secretariat**  
December 2025