



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 9.15am**

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Lorna Foreman
- Callum Thomson
- Andrew Munro
- Mairi Pearson
- Janice Crerar
- Heather MacLennan
- Gillian Baxendine
- James Vinestock
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Allan Campbell
- Lisa Creamer
- Joanna Purves
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

### **Previous minutes**

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 5 June 2025.

## Matters arising

2. The SPCB received an update on the proposed dissolution arrangements in advance of the 2026 Scottish Parliament election.
3. The SPCB was also informed at today's meeting of the decision by the Post Office to close its branch within the Parliamentary estate in August 2025. This decision follows the Post Office's announcement that all remaining Directly Managed Branches would be franchised.
4. The SPCB noted its disappointment at this decision and asked officials to explore how services currently provided by the Post Office can be replicated by the Scottish Parliamentary Service as far as possible.

**Action: Lynsey**

5. The following item was dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting—
  - Paper 31 – The SPCB approved the travel to the 61<sup>st</sup> Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians as parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration.

## Members' Expenses Scheme review

6. In May 2024, the SPCB commissioned a review of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to ensure it is still appropriate for supporting Members in carrying out their parliamentary roles, and that any changes required can be implemented from the start of session 7.
7. At today's meeting, the SPCB considered the recommendations arising from the review as signed off in the agreed remit and asked that further work was undertaken in relation to minimum standards for local offices and the reimbursement arrangements for members representing large geographical areas. It also welcomed plans to develop guidance to more clearly define the difference between party spokespersons and parliamentary duties and the rules on claiming reimbursement.
8. The SPCB further noted that a review of Party Leaders' Allowance operation and level of support and a review of Short Monies (Financial Assistance for Political Parties) will be reported to the SPCB separately in Autumn 2025.
9. The SPCB will consider a further report at a future meeting.

**Action: Andrew, Mairi**

## **Officeholders – Contingency Request: Paper 32**

10. The SPCB approved a contingency funding application from the Standards Commission for Scotland.
11. The SPCB noted its appreciation for the support Janice Crerar, as Officeholder Liaison, has provided to the SPCB over the last 23 years.

## **Incorporating the UNCRC into the work of the Scottish Parliament: Paper 33**

12. Section 21 of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 places a duty on the SPCB to report annually on—
  - the actions taken by the Parliament and its committees to secure better or further effect of the rights of children during the period covered by the report; and
  - the actions they intend to take to secure better or further effect of the rights of children during the next period.
13. The SPCB considered the first report to fulfil this duty and agreed its publication. It also agreed that approval of future annual reports should be delegated to the Clerk/Chief Executive.
14. The SPCB recorded its thanks to Gillian Baxendine, Head of Participation and Communities Team for her 26 years' service at the Scottish Parliament.

## **Independent review of complaints: Paper 34**

15. The SPCB considered the bids received to undertake an independent review of complaints and appointed Rosemary Agnew as the review lead.

## **Any other business**

16. The SPCB approved the plans for the Inclusive Parliament Review to recommend possible changes in the medium to longer term to ensure the Parliament is inclusive for all of those working and visiting it.
17. The SPCB also noted the outcome of the recent recruitment for a new Director of Finance.

## **Date of next meeting**

18. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 11 September 2025.

**SPCB Secretariat**

June 2025