



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 25 September 2025 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
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- Andrew Munro
- Beki Stark
- Mairi Pearson
- David Hershaw
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Allan Campbell
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB discussed the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee debate held on 18 September 2025. It also discussed the SPCB's Protest Policy and received an update from officials on a recent fire evacuation exercise.
3. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 11 September 2025—
 - Paper 47: The SPCB noted the feedback received from the annual Members' feedback interviews regarding Member satisfaction with parliamentary services.
 - The SPCB approved the installation of a new Public Access Defibrillator at Holyrood.
 - The SPCB also noted—
 - An update from the Clerk/Chief Executive in relation to the live investigation.
 - Additional information relating to SPCB approved security improvement works.

SPCB Annual Reports and Accounts: Paper 42

4. The SPCB considered and approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25 and noted feedback from the Advisory Audit Board meeting on 17 September 2025.

Authorisations required by Standing Financial Instructions: Paper 43

5. The SPCB considered and noted the accounting write-offs in the 2024-25 accounts, in line with the Standing Financial Instructions.

Advisory Audit Board Annual Report: Paper 44

6. The SPCB noted the work of the Advisory Audit Board and the range of assurances it has received and considered in 2024/25.

Review of the Members' Expenses Scheme: Paper 45

7. The SPCB further considered the recommendations following a review of the Members' Expenses Scheme. Following discussion, the SPCB agreed that an independent review of local offices should be included in the SPCB's wider legacy paper to be prepared in advance of session 7. It also agreed the approach to reimbursement for Members who exceed 10,000 miles in a tax year and the level of support for Party Leaders in Session 7.
8. Subject to these amendments, the SPCB agreed the recommendations associated with the review of the Members' Expenses Scheme.
9. The SPCB noted that it would consider a final report and next steps to communicate and seek agreement to changes in the Scheme at a future meeting.

2026 Election Guidance: Paper 46

10. The SPCB considered draft guidance for Members and their staff on the use of parliamentary resources during the Scottish Parliament general election in 2026.
11. During the discussion, the SPCB requested that further clarification is provided on the dates that non-party political material can be issued during the campaign period. Subject to this clarification, the SPCB approved the guidance.
12. The SPCB noted that the guidance will be published and circulated to all MSPs once the Parliament has agreed the dates for the 2026 election period.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 9 October 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
September 2025