



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 3 April 2025 at 9.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Maggie Chapman MSP
- David McGill

In attendance:

- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Alan Balharrie, Phil Bassett
- Roy Devon
- Callum Thomson, Catherine Ferguson, Catriona McCallum
- Peter Walker
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Cyber security

1. The SPCB welcomed Jude McCorry, Chief Executive of the Cyber and Fraud Centre for Scotland, who provided a cyber security briefing alongside Parliamentary officials. During the session, the SPCB discussed current cyber security threats and ways in which cyber-attacks can be avoided.
2. The SPCB will consider this matter further at a future meeting.

Garden of Remembrance

3. The SPCB considered written question S6W-31097, submitted by Paul Sweeney MSP, which asks the SPCB whether it will “emulate the UK Parliament’s annual Constituency Garden of Remembrance in the Scottish Parliament’s garden from 2025”.
4. The SPCB discussed possible options that may be suitable for the Scottish Parliament, that could complement existing UK Parliament arrangements and the Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance, located near the Scott Monument. Following discussion, the SPCB asked Parliamentary officials to explore these options further and to report back at a future meeting.

Previous minutes

5. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 6 March 2025.

Matters arising

6. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - Paper 18: The SPCB approved the appointment of an Acting Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and Accountable Officer.
 - Paper 22: The SPCB noted a revised strategic plan for the period 2021-2025, submitted by the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner.
7. The SPCB also:
 - noted the Chief Executive Report highlighting activities across the Scottish Parliament from December 2024 to March 2025 and incorporating the Finance, Performance and Workforce Data reports for quarter 3.
 - approved the questions that will be used for forthcoming Members’ feedback interviews and the Members’ staff survey.
 - noted correspondence from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee regarding its inquiry on committee effectiveness. The SPCB will consider its response in due course.

Independent review of complaints: Paper 19

8. The SPCB considered external research it had commissioned to inform its approach to an independent review of the Parliament's complaints process. Following consideration of the options as set out in the paper, the SPCB agreed to seek to appoint a qualified and experienced independent lead to conduct the review. It also agreed the terms of reference and person specification for the role, and to consider next steps at a future meeting.

Allowances – travel application: Paper 20

9. The SPCB agreed that the travel and overnight costs associated with a Member's Bill could be met from the Members' Expenses Scheme.

Officeholders – Scottish Biometrics Commissioner staffing: Paper 21

10. The SPCB considered a staffing determination from the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner and approved the temporary promotion of the Corporate Services Manager to Director for eleven months. It also approved the request for a biometrics subject expert to be seconded from Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority for a period of two years.

Date of next meeting

11. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 24 April 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
April 2025