



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 9.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

- David McGill

In attendance:

- Michelle Hegarty
- James Vinestock
- Mairi Pearson
- Peter Walker
- Lorna Foreman
- Stephen Wright
- Jane McEwan
- Lynsey Hamill
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Kate Blackman
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 3 April 2025.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB discussed the arrangements and next steps in relation to the independent review of complaints.
3. The following items were considered by correspondence since the previous meeting—
 - The SPCB agreed correspondence to the Electoral Commission confirming it was satisfied that its 5-year Corporate Plan is consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge of its devolved Scottish functions.
 - Paper 23: The SPCB agreed by correspondence to consider the issues raised in Paper 23 at its meeting on 8 May 2023.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Exceptional Expense Request due to By-election: Paper 24

4. The SPCB considered this item alongside Paper 23: SPCB's Policy on Members' Parliamentary Funded Communications and Upcoming By-Election.
5. The SPCB noted that the decision to consider Paper 23 at today's meeting meant that the Member was required to delay the distribution of their annual report, which resulted in additional costs due to Royal Mail. It further noted that the Member had complied with the Policy on Members Parliamentary Funded Communications and was not at fault for the additional costs incurred.
6. The SPCB therefore agreed to approve an exceptional expense application due to the need for the Member to delay the distribution of their annual report. It also agreed to update its policy to clarify that where additional costs have been incurred in relation to parliamentary funded communication due to a by-election, and the member has taken steps to mitigate these costs, the SPCB will approve future applications of this nature.
7. The SPCB further agreed to request that officials engage with Royal Mail to discuss how these arrangements work in practice and whether any improvements can be made.

Reimbursement of Members Expenses Scheme – Use of Parliament Resources: Paper 25

8. The SPCB agreed that no action should be taken following a complaint received regarding a Member's annual report being distributed outwith their electoral area, as this was due to a supplier error outwith the Member's control.

Update on facilities and services at Holyrood: Paper 26

9. The SPCB agreed its interim stance, to ensure the Parliament fulfils its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, and Workplace Regulations, in light of the Supreme Court ruling that, in the context of the Equality Act 2010, "sex", "man" and "woman" mean biological sex and the interim update on the practical implications of the judgment issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).
10. The SPCB agreed to communicate its interim stance as soon as possible to provide clarity to passholders and visitors using the building.
11. It also noted that as part of the next phase of work, a consultation with staff and other stakeholders will be conducted to inform further practical changes that may be needed in the medium to longer term, in light of an updated Code of Practice from the EHRC, once it completes its formal consideration by UK Ministers and has been laid before the UK Parliament for the requisite period.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 22 May 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
May 2025