



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2026 at 9.45am

Present:

- Kenneth Gibson MSP (chair)
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Jackie Dunbar MSP
- Stephen Kerr MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Pauline McNeill MSP
- Graham Simpson MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive
- Heather MacLennan, Head of Officeholder Services
- Kerry Twyman, Director of Finance and Resilience
- Mairi Pearson, Head of Travel and Expenses
- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations
- Eric MacLeod, Senior Communications Manager
- Lynn Russell, Principal Private Secretary to the Presiding Officer
- Lisa Creamer, Office Manager

Item 1: Previous meeting

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2026.

Item 2: Matters arising

2. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 25 June 2026:
 - Paper 52: International Relations: Parliamentary travel – British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA), Steering Committee Meeting. The SPCB agreed that the travel outlined in this paper is parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration.
 - Paper 53: International Relations: Parliamentary travel – Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The SPCB agreed that the travel outlined in this paper is parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration.

- Paper 54: Officeholders – Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland (PSCS) contingency request for one member of staff. The SPCB refused the bid and advised the PSCS to include a bid for either a temporary or permanent resource in her budget bid for 2027-28.
 - Paper 55: Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Advisory Group: additional members. The SPCB approved the additional membership of the Patient Safety for Scotland Commissioner’s Advisory Group.
 - Paper 56: Electoral Management Board for Scotland Staffing Determination. The SPCB approved the staffing determination.
3. The SPCB also noted the following matters by correspondence:
- a memorandum from the Director of Parliamentary Business regarding MSP data communications
 - a memorandum from the Interim Solicitor to the Parliament regarding personal liabilities
 - a memorandum regarding the Scottish Information Commissioner – Court of Session ruling on FOISA and legal professional privilege
 - a memorandum from the Director of People, Communications and Inclusion on the Public Engagement Strategy
 - a memorandum from the Head of Officeholder Services on an officeholder matter.

Item 3: Officeholder Induction

4. The SPCB received a briefing paper and opportunity for discussion on the Officeholder landscape as part of the SPCB induction programme. Issues such as the role of the SPCB, annual budgets, shared services and legal functions were discussed.
5. The SPCB also discussed the Programme for Government, specifically the inclusion of a commitment to work with Parliament to build on the previous Committee reviews into the Parliamentary Commissioner landscape with a view to consolidating their number while protecting their functions.
6. The SPCB agreed to visit Bridgeside House to meet the Officeholders and tour the accommodation.

Item 4: Response to the Public Petitions Committee: Paper 58

7. The SPCB considered and approved a response to the Public Petitions Committee on PE2234: Reduce MSP Salaries to the Median Scottish Full-time Income.
8. The SPCB agreed to consider responses to any future petitions by correspondence.

Item 5: Edinburgh Old Town Business Improvement District (BID): Paper 59

9. The SPCB considered a paper on the SPCB's potential participation in the Edinburgh Old Town Business Improvement District (BID).
10. The SPCB agreed to thank the steering group for their engagement but to request that the Parliament be excluded from the BID boundary.

Item 6: Travel and Expenses

Reimbursement of Members Expenses – Edinburgh Accommodation Groups: Paper 60

11. The SPCB approved an application to change the Edinburgh accommodation status of the Stirling Constituency, by splitting it into two groups, from Mark Ruskell MSP.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Additional Regional Office: Paper 61

12. The SPCB refused an application from Mark Griffin MSP and Jenny Young MSP for an additional regional office in the Central and Lothians West region.
13. The SPCB agreed to consider the issue further in a wider office review planned for later in Session 7.

Reimbursement of Members Expenses' Scheme – Travel Provision Application: Paper 62

14. The SPCB approved an application from the Labour Parliamentary Group to have travel costs incurred from attendance at a group awayday in Stirling in October 2026 to be met from the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme.
15. The SPCB agreed that guidance should be circulated to Members to raise awareness and provide clarity on what is covered by the Scheme in relation to party group awaydays.

Item 7: SPCB Question Time

16. The SPCB received a briefing ahead of the first SPCB Question Time of Session 7.

Date of next meeting

17. The next meeting of the SPCB is scheduled for 24 September 2026.

SPCB Secretariat
September 2026