



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2026 at 9.15am**

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive
- Lynsey Hamill, Alan Durward, Becky Thomson
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Nick Connelly
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

### **Item 1: Previous meeting**

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2026.

### **Item 2: Matters arising**

2. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 12 March 2026:
  - Paper 20: Allowances – travel application. The SPCB approved a request for the travel and overnight costs associated with a proposed visit to the National Assembly in France to be met from the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme
  - Paper 27: World Cup Bank Holiday. The SPCB agreed that SPS staff will not receive an additional public and privilege holiday on 15 June 2026, noting the parliamentary impact in closing the Office of the Clerk as the key rationale. The SPCB further noted that managers are encouraged to respond positively to requests for time off from SPS staff who wish to mark

the occasion and that MSPs, as the employers of their staff, are free to designate 15 June as an additional holiday if they wish to do so.

- Paper 28: Scottish Parliamentary Staff Pay Claim 2026/27. The SPCB agreed a remit for negotiations for the next pay award, as recommended in the paper.
- Paper 29: Security issues: Upgrade to facial authentication access arrangements and local office security clearances. The SPCB agreed to upgrade the Holyrood building access arrangements.
- Paper 30: Session 7 Governance. The SPCB agreed the proposed approach to SPCB governance for Session 7.
- Paper 31: Review of Media Access Policy and Media Policy: The SPCB agreed minor revisions to both policies.
- The SPCB noted a memo from the Director of Operations and Digital which provided an update on business-critical contract re-lets for the period 2024-2027.
- The SPCB noted a memo from the Head of Officeholder Services which provided an update on the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee recommendations.

### **Item 3: Supporting elected Members with caring responsibilities to fulfil their role – Paper 24**

3. The SPCB considered a detailed paper on options for enhancing the support available to Members with caring responsibilities. The SPCB noted that it had exhaustively explored all realistic options within its remit to improve provision and support for those with caring responsibilities.
4. During the discussion, the SPCB noted the changes to facilities, parliamentary procedures and the Members' Expenses Scheme implemented this session to provide more flexibility for Members, including those with caring responsibilities. It also noted that the terms of the current license for the Scottish Parliament crèche cannot be extended any further, following detailed discussions with the regulator, the Care Inspectorate. It further noted that none of the options explored in depth for creating a nursery in, or near Holyrood, were considered viable.
5. The SPCB agreed to assess Members' needs at the start of the session; and committed to providing signposting to local nursery options and support to explore childcare options, where required.

### **Item 4: SPCB Governance: investigation process – Paper 25**

6. Following its investigation in 2023/2024, the SPCB asked officials to compile a process document which reflected the robust approach adopted, should it be

required in its future governance role. The SPCB considered the investigation process developed by officials and, following discussion, agreed the process.

7. The SPCB also noted that the independent “Review of Members of the Scottish Parliament Complaints Sanctions Process” report, recently considered by the SPCB, made several recommendations and observations on wider complaint processes that may be relevant to the investigation process. It therefore agreed that officials review the process in light of any changes which might arise in Session 7.

## **Item 5: SPCB Legacy report – Paper 26**

8. The SPCB agreed its legacy report for Session 6, subject to the inclusion of final minor additions.

## **Any other business**

9. The SPCB discussed the pastoral support measures in place for Members who are the subject of a complaint, noting existing provision was of a comparable level of support with other UK legislatures.

## **Date of next meeting**

10. There are no further meetings scheduled prior to the parliamentary election. Any issues will be dealt with by correspondence or, if appropriate, by arranging a special meeting.
11. The next planned meeting will be arranged following election of new SPCB Members.

## **SPCB Secretariat**

March 2026