The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 25 June 2026 at 10.00am

Present:

- Kenneth Gibson MSP (chair)
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Jackie Dunbar MSP
- Stephen Kerr MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Pauline McNeill MSP (items 1-6)
- Graham Simpson MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive
- Kenny Htet-Khin, Interim Solicitor to the Parliament
- Nick Fraser, Solicitor
- Roy Devon, Head of Events and Exhibitions
- Jane McEwan, Head of Parliament Communications Office
- Lorna Hunter, Director of People, Communications and Inclusion
- Eric MacLeod, Senior Communications Manager
- Heather MacLennan, Head of Officeholder Services
- Kerry Twyman, Director of Finance and Resilience
- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations
- Lynn Russell, Principal Private Secretary to the Presiding Officer
- Joanna Purves, Administrator

Item 1: Previous meeting

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2026.

Item 2: Matters arising

2. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 11 June 2026:

- Paper 43: Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Additional Offices Applications. The SPCB approved two application for additional offices, in Mid-Scotland and Fife Region and one in South Scotland region and to delegate to the Head of Travel and Expenses Office decisions on additional office applications, unless they are novel or contentious in nature, in which case these will be brought to the attention of the SPCB.

- Paper 44: SPCB governance - Delegation to the Clerk/Chief Executive. The SPCB approved the issue of the updated delegation of functions to the Clerk/Chief Executive for Session 7.

- Paper 45: International Relations: Parliamentary travel – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference. The SPCB approved the travel outlined in the paper as parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration.

- Paper 46: SPICe collation and publication of diversity data. The SPCB agreed to the recommendation in the paper to publish MSP diversity data where consent is given.

- Paper 51: Scottish Commission for Public Audit appointments. The SPCB agreed to seek the agreement of the Parliament to appoint Jenni Minto, Michael Marra, Kate Nevens and Miles Briggs to be members of the Commission.

- Paper 57: a paper from the Clerk/Chief Executive on the appointment of the Solicitor to the Parliament.

3. The SPCB also noted the following matters by correspondence:

   - a memorandum from the Head of Officeholder Services on an officeholder matter
   - a memorandum from the Director of People, Communications and Inclusion on the Inclusive Parliament programme
   - a memorandum from the Head of Resilience on Mandatory Training (Anti-Bribery & Corruption and Anti-Fraud).

Item 3: Chief Executive’s Report

4. The SPCB considered the Chief Executive’s Report which highlighted activities across the Parliament from March to June 2026 and includes Quarter 4 Finance, Performance and Workforce Data reports.

5. The SPCB discussed a number of items referred to in the report. This included the 2026 election induction programme and the approach to reporting on parliamentary business to the SPCB. The SPCB also discussed the catering contract highlighted in the report, as well both physical and cyber security arrangements for Members.

6. Following discussion, the SPCB noted the report.

Item 4: Statutory responsibilities: Paper 47

7. The SPCB considered a paper from the Legal Services office on the key legal responsibilities with which the SPCB may most frequently engage. Following discussion, the SPCB noted the report.

Item 5: Business planning: Head of State

8. The SPCB received an update on matters related to the Head of State.

Item 6: Overview of Parliament Communications Office: Paper 48

9. The SPCB discussed the work of the Parliament Communications Office, including the media access policy. During discussion, the SPCB agreed to engage constructively with the Scottish Parliament Journalists Association and asked officials to begin that process over the summer. It further recognised the important role the media plays in the scrutiny process and the need to ensure the building works effectively for all those who are based at Holyrood.

10. The SPCB also noted the post-FMQs media pen is an operational matter for the Presiding Officer and Clerk/Chief Executive.

11. The SPCB agreed to consider these matters further at a future meeting.

Item 7: Scottish Public Services Ombudsman contingency: Paper 49

12. The SPCB considered a contingency fund application from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). Following discussion, the SPCB agreed to approve the SPSO's bid for funding in 2026-27, but that bids for future financial years should only be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process.

13. The SPCB agreed to write to the SPSO to explain its decision, and to invite the SPSO to a future meeting to discuss his work.

Item 8: Victims and Witnesses Commissioner Terms and Conditions: Paper 50

14. The SPCB considered the terms and conditions of appointment for the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner. After discussion, the SPCB agreed the terms and conditions, as set out in the paper.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting of the SPCB is scheduled for 10 September 2026.

SPCB Secretariat

June 2026