



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2026 at 9.00am**

## **Present:**

- Alison Johnstone MSP (chair)
- Claire Baker MSP (items 3-6)
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Christine Grahame MSP

## **Apologies:**

- Michelle Hegarty, Deputy Chief Executive

## **In attendance:**

- David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive
- Heather MacLennan
- Pauline McNeil, Chair of Pension Fund Trustees
- Keith Gourlay, Laura Brunton, Government Actuary's Department
- Kirsten Knox, Neil Mackie, Kerry Twyman
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Joanna Purves
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

## **Item 1: Meeting with the Standards Commission for Scotland**

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Standards Commission for Scotland (SCS) and welcomed the following Commission members:
  - Suzanne Vestri, Convener
  - Helen Donaldson, Member
  - Lezley Stewart, Member
  - Morag Ferguson, Member
  - Malcolm Bell, Member
2. Areas of discussion covered with the SCS included the increasing complexity of its case work and hearings, how it works with partners to deliver training and

education to councillors and members of devolved public bodies and its engagement with the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

3. The SPCB thanked Commission members for their attendance.

## **Item 2: Meeting with the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland**

4. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland and welcomed Ian Bruce to the meeting. During the meeting, the SPCB welcomed the improvement made to waiting times for an initial assessment of a complaint from 11 months in 2022/23 to 4.5 months in 2025/26.
5. Other areas discussed included changes to the complaints landscape, the increasing number of cases being received, the Commissioner's relationship with the SCS and welfare support arrangements for those affected by complaints made about MSPs.
6. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for his attendance.

## **Item 3: Previous meeting**

7. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025.

## **Item 4: Matters arising**

8. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the meeting on 11 December 2025:
  - Paper 1: The SPCB approved the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland's determination for the establishment of an Advisory Group in accordance with the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Act 2023.
  - Paper 3: The SPCB noted a draft resolution making changes to the Scottish Parliament Salaries Scheme and agreed the arrangements for submitting the resolution to Parliament.
9. The SPCB also noted an update on the Social Media Monitoring Service between 1 April and 30 September 2025.

## **Item 5: Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme – Sponsor contribution rate – Paper 2**

10. The SPCB met with Pauline McNeill MSP, Chair of the Pension Fund Trustees and representatives from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to discuss the SPCB's contribution rate as the Fund sponsor.
11. Following detailed discussion, the Chair and GAD representatives left the meeting. On the basis of advice from the Government Actuary's Department and

a recommendation by the Pension Fund Trustees, the SPCB agreed to maintain the current total contribution rate of 22.6% per annum and remove the previously scheduled annual increase of 0.8% from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2036, noting that this will provide stability, contingency for cost pressures and protection against possible future financial volatility.

12. The SPCB also agreed to recommend that the successor SPCB seek an interim update from the Trustees on the funding position of the Pension Scheme early in the next session of Parliament, ahead of the next formal triennial valuation in 2028.

## **Item 6: Election programme 2026**

13. The SPCB noted an update on the planning and preparation for the Scottish parliamentary elections in May 2026.

## **Date of next meeting**

14. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 29 January 2026.

**SPCB Secretariat**  
January 2026