



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2021 at 09.00, Q1.03 and via Teams

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- Superintendent David Robertson, Police Scotland
- Judith Morrison
- Tommy Lynch
- Cristine Livingstone
- Janice Crerar
- Susan Duffy
- Roy Devon
- Lorna Foreman
- Aneela McKenna
- Huw Williams
- Joanne McNaughton
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB had agreed the following in correspondence since the previous meeting:

- 2.1 SPCB(2021)Paper 37 – application for additional regional office

2.2 SPCB(2021)Paper 38 – application for additional regional office

2.3 SPCB(2021)Paper 39 – Scottish Commission for Public Audit: membership

Estate management – SPCB(2021)Paper 31

3. The SPCB discussed the Scottish Parliament becoming a designated site under legislation in line with the UK and Welsh Parliaments. Maggie Chapman raised some concerns about the proposal. Following discussion of these and other queries the SPCB agreed to apply for designated status.

Chief Executive's Report

4. The Chief Executive introduced his regular report highlighting activities across the organisation and providing the 2020-21 quarter 4 finance report.
5. The SPCB noted assurances in relation to the capacity of the non-governmental bills unit to deal with early workloads and agreed to schedule a discussion around the development/improvement of facilities to support hybrid working.
6. The SPCB noted the Report.

Covid-19 management update – SPCB(2021)Paper 32

7. Officials provided an update following the First Minister's statement to Parliament earlier in the week. The SPCB welcomed the positive nature of the update and the prospect of a resumption of the many services and engagement activities that had been suspended over the past months. The SPCB was conscious of the impact the restrictions had had on all those working at the Parliament and particularly more recently the impact on new Members' ability to integrate fully into the life of the Parliament.
8. The SPCB agreed in principle to a phased approach to the recovery and resumption of services from the start of the new parliamentary year on 30 August 2021. Officials would work on detailed plans over the summer to try and ensure all aspects of the approach could be delivered. This approach would ensure these were properly planned, safe, consistent with requirements and would minimise any risk to Members and staff or the support of parliamentary business.

Officeholders: staffing determination – SPCB(2021)Paper 33

9. The SPCB approved a request from the acting Ethical Standards Commissioner to increase his staffing compliment and for contingency funding.

Session 6 Opening Ceremony – SPCB(2021)Paper 34

10. The SPCB agreed outline arrangements for a Kirking of the Parliament and Opening Ceremony, postponed from July due to covid-19 restrictions, to be progressed for later

in the year. Arrangements would be dependent on what was achievable under the regulations and guidance in place at the time.

2021 Festival of Politics – SPCB(2021)Paper 35

11. The SPCB noted an update on planning for the 2021 Festival of Politics. The SPCB agreed that the Festival should again be an online event held over 5 days in October.

Diversity Monitoring and Pay Gaps Report 2020 – SPCB(2021)Paper 36

12. The SPCB has a statutory duty to publish its data on diversity in its workforce and the gender pay gap. The 2020 Report had been delayed due to covid-19.

13. The SPCB welcomed the report and the data relating to gender balance and pay gap. The SPCB discussed the figures relating to recruitment from the BAME community and the work being done to investigate this area and the ethnicity pay gap.

14. Subject to some comments and clarification around the content of graphs, the SPCB approved the report for publication.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 9 September 2021.

SPCB secretariat

June 2021