



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Use of QBH lounge

19 May 2022

Reference: SPCB (2022) Paper 37

Executive summary

1. We are seeking permission to use the QBH Lounge from 31 May to 9 June (10am to 2pm on business days) to provide a designated place for people to meet in person with the purpose of connecting and learning from one another. This is an initiative designed to help Members, their staff and parliamentary staff to connect and build relationships now that working within the parliament buildings is increasing.
2. Permission is being sought as the QBH Lounge is currently only available to Members and their guests at these times.

Issues and options

3. Providing an informal place for people to meet has been proven to be a positive way to help people connect, learning from each other directly rather than just reading about experiences, and allows for the building of mutually beneficial relationships.
4. Using this concept during May will allow an opportunity for people to connect with the return of working within the building. It will give an opportunity for new Members and their staff to meet and connect with other Members and their teams as well as parliamentary staff.
5. Getting people talking and forming relationships in person is something that has been missed during the last 2 years and it serves as an opportunity to rebuild the sharing of information about the services and workings within the Parliament building.

6. The space we have identified to hold the activity is the QBH Lounge. It is a space that lends itself well to this concept as we can accommodate small groups and provide a safe place for talking about personal experiences without impacting other areas that face a higher level of demand during the day.

Governance

7. All passholders would be welcome to use the area and we have allocated 4 hours per business day to try and make it accessible around busy schedules.

8. The times for the area to be open each business day have been set at 10am to 2pm to ensure that the regular service in the QBH lounge can operate from 4pm. Refreshments will be provided.

9. In partnership with our Resilience and Sustainability Engagement Manager, this activity will be supported by our Mental Health Network and our Mental Health First Aiders.

Resource implications

10. Volunteers are to be sought from the Mental Health Network, Mental Health First Aiders and the Resilience and Sustainability Group to ensure the area always has someone present to be involved in a conversation.

Publication Scheme

11. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Next steps

12. If the SPCB agrees to the use of the QBH Lounge, we will then advertise through our Rethinking Resilience engagement activities during May to garner interest and attendance.

13. Should we be able to proceed, we will feedback to the SPCB as to how successful the initiative was to see if there is an appetite to utilise this space for future initiatives and services.

Decision

14. The SPCB is invited to agree the use of the QBH Lounge from 31 May to 9 June (10am to 2pm on Business Days) as a designated place for people to connect.

Resilience and Sustainability Group
May 2022