



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 27 October 2022 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Susan Duffy
- Roy Devon
- Becky Thomson
- Helen Birrell
- Sara Glass
- Kirsten Knox
- Tracey White
- Roz Thomson
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Lynsey Hamill
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 29 September and 6 October 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB agreed the terms of a response to a letter received from the Standards Commission for Scotland.
3. The SPCB noted the following items had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - SPCB (2022) Paper 68 – agreed parliamentary travel by the Presiding Officer and two MSPs to the 74th Plenary Session of the Nordic Council.
 - Noted the resignation of a member of the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Chief Executive's Report

4. The Chief Executive introduced his regular report. Items highlighted included the Parliament's Operation London Bridge activities; an update on the addition of MSPs to the statutory list of prescribed persons for the purpose of whistleblowing; and committee activities.
5. The SPCB noted the report.

Events and Exhibitions review – Paper 64

6. The SPCB discussed the management of events at Holyrood. The SPCB agreed that major events and exhibitions would be reviewed to ensure they were aligned to the SPCB's Public Engagement Strategy, the aims of which were about breaking down barriers and engaging with as wide a range of people as possible. The criteria for Member-sponsored events would not change but reference to the Public Engagement Strategy and advice about exhibitions would be added to the Guidance.
7. The SPCB also agreed that the current level of Member-sponsored events would continue to be supported.

Local office security work – Paper 65

8. The SPCB agreed two requests for security work to Members' local offices.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Paper 66

9. The SPCB approved two requests for overnight accommodation costs that exceeded the Allowances standard rate.

Non-Government Bills Unit – Paper 67

10. The SPCB received a briefing about the current position in relation to non-Government Bills, and about how the Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU) was currently allocating its resources at a time of high demand.
11. In addition to the high number of proposals currently being progressed, there were also some other proposals currently being considered by Members. The SPCB discussed the size and complexity of many of the proposals which resulted in higher levels of resource being required to support Members and noted the constraints due to availability of time in the parliamentary calendar.
12. The SPCB noted the update.

Crèche services

13. The SPCB agreed the award of a contract to provide a crèche service at Holyrood on business days. The service would commence in May 2023.

Date of next meeting

14. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 10 November 2022.

SPCB secretariat
October 2022