



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Conveners group

Minutes

2nd Meeting, 2022 (Session 6) Wednesday 23 February 2022

Present:

Liam McArthur MSP, Convener

Clare Adamson MSP, Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Claire Baker MSP, Economy and Fair Work Committee

Siobhan Brown MSP, COVID-19 Recovery Committee

Ariane Burgess MSP, Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee

Finlay Carson MSP, Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Joe FitzPatrick MSP, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice (virtual)

Kenneth Gibson MSP, Finance and Public Administration

Stuart McMillan MSP, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Audrey Nicoll MSP, Criminal Justice Committee

Martin Whitfield MSP, Standards and Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Elena Whitham MSP, Social Justice and Social Security (virtual)

Apologies were received from Gillian Martin MSP, Stephen Kerr MSP, Richard Leonard MSP, Jackson Carlaw MSP and Dean Lockhart MSP.

1. **Minutes:** The Conveners Group agreed the minutes of the last meeting. The Group also agreed to continue its consideration of gender balance on Committees at a future meeting.
2. **Post-EU devolution issues (oral update):** The Group received a briefing on Post-EU devolution issues from Clare Adamson MSP, Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. Further consideration of these issues would be made at the Group's meeting in late March.
3. **Committee substitutes:** The Group discussed the temporary relaxation of the committee substitutes rule which has been in place during the pandemic. The Group recognised the benefit of the increased flexibility, but the majority did not believe it was necessary to retain the relaxation of the rule in its current form as it was rarely used. More importantly for the Group were the benefits to be gained

from consistency of committee membership and that it should continue to be the case that committee members should attend meetings as far as possible. It was noted that the retention of hybrid proceedings would help to facilitate this.

To achieve extra flexibility, while still largely adhering to 'consistency of membership' approach, some of the Group proposed having two named committee substitutes, rather than one. The Group agreed to ask the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to consider this approach.

Date of Next Meeting: 30 March 2022

Contact details for the clerk

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Conveners Group
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Tel: 0131 348 5256
Email: irene.fleming@parliament.scot