



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2022 at 09.00. (hybrid)

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Becky Thomson
- Helen Birrell
- Janice Crerar
- Erin Borthwick
- Lynsey Hamill
- Alan Durward
- Susan Duffy
- Alan Balharrie
- Willie Heigh
- Dorothy Sneddon
- Andrew Patience
- Emma Armstrong
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Huw Williams, Acting Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 24 and 30 March 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB received an update relating to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.
3. The SPCB noted that the following items had been considered by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - SPCB (2022) Paper 25 – noted the details of travel and approved the associated costs.
 - SPCB (2022) paper 26 – agreed the extension of availability of office cost provision and start-up provision.
 - SPCB (2022) Paper 27 – agreed a request under the disability provision.
 - Noted an update on covid-19 arrangements following the First Minister's statement on 30 March.
 - Noted an update on the SPS staff pay negotiations.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: Exceptional Expenses – Paper 28

4. The SPCB agreed to an exceptional expenses application under the provisions of the Members' Expenses Scheme for funding to cover VAT costs for printing.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: Exceptional Expenses – Paper 29

5. The SPCB considered an application for exceptional expenses under the provisions of the Members' Expenses Scheme to cover the costs of an unreturned deposit relating to the termination of an office lease. The SPCB agreed the costs should be met from the Member's office costs provision and allocated against spend for last financial year.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme: Disability Provision – Paper 30

6. The SPCB agreed to an application under the Disability provisions of the Members' Expenses Scheme for works to a Member's local office to ensure the toilet and kitchen facilities met with accessibility requirement.

Local Office Security – Paper 31

7. The SPCB discussed a request for security related works to be undertaken at a Member's local office. The SPCB agreed to defer a decision on the application pending further information to be considered at the next meeting.

Officeholders: Patient Safety Commissioner – Paper 32

8. The Scottish Government had written to the Presiding Officer seeking views from the SPCB about a proposal to establish a Patient Safety Commissioner. The SPCB agreed a draft response to the Minister subject to some minor changes.
9. The SPCB noted with concern the growing number of SPCB officeholders already established and being proposed and the resource impact this had on the SPCB. The SPCB agreed to discuss this further at its awayday meeting in the summer and, in the meantime to write to the Government.

New Ways of Working – Paper 33

10. The SPCB received a presentation from officials about new ways of working. The presentation showed high levels of satisfaction with SPCB services so far this session and also reflected Members and their staff aspirations for how they might work more flexibly in the future. Future work on this issue would amongst other things look at workplaces, technology, services and business systems and support. The SPCB also noted the inquiry that was being undertaken by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee into parliamentary procedures and practices in the future.
11. The SPCB agreed to discuss the investment in improvements at its away day meeting in the summer.

Website – Paper 34

12. The SPCB considered a draft reply to the Finance and Public Administration's request for information about the new website. The SPCB provided a steer for further changes and noted a revised letter would be issued for agreement by correspondence.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 19 May 2022.

SPCB secretariat

April 2022