



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 2 May 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Lynsey Hamill, Becky Thomson, Judith Morrison, Stephen Wright
- Helen Birrell
- Bob Mason
- Sara Glass, Mairi Pearson
- Susan Mansfield
- Alan Durward
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lori Gray
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 18 April 2024.

Matters arising

2. Following discussion of the UK Election Guidance at the previous meeting, the SPCB agreed a change to the timeframe for restrictions on issuing parliamentary funded publications in the event of a UK election. The timeframe in relation to Scottish Parliament elections remained the same. The Policy and the Guidance would be updated.

3. The following item had been dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - SPCB (2024) Paper 32 – agreed the nomination of Jamie Greene MSP as a member of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit. A Motion would be lodged for Parliament’s approval.

Protest camp

4. The SPCB received an update on the ongoing un-authorized camp in the grounds of the Parliament and discussed its response. The camp was in contravention of the SPCB’s Protest Policy and further updates would be provided to the SPCB over the coming days.

Security works – SPCB (2024) Paper 33

5. The SPCB agreed 3 requests for funding for security works at Members’ local constituency offices.

Social media monitoring service (SMMS) – SPCB (2024) Paper 34

6. The SPCB received an update on the SMMS trial which had been running over the past year. The service had been welcomed by those Members participating in the trial and the SPCB agreed that the service would be formally added to the suite of security services offered to Members by the SPCB.

Review of the Reimbursement of Members’ Expenses Scheme – SPCB (2024) Paper 35

7. The Reimbursement of Members’ Expenses Scheme is typically reviewed each parliamentary session to ensure it is still appropriate for supporting Members in carrying out their parliamentary roles and that any changes required can be implemented from the start of the following session.
8. The SPCB formally commissioned a review for this session and agreed the remit and methodology.

Publication of Members' Expenses – SPCB (2024) Paper 36

9. For security reasons, the SPCB agreed to amend the data published in relation to all hotels used by Members, bringing it in line with the data currently published in relation to hotels used in Edinburgh.

Scotland's Futures Forum – SPCB (2024) Paper 37

10. The SPCB noted the Forum's Annual Report on its activities during 2022-23 and its audited accounts for the same period.

Flag Policy – SPCB (2024) Paper 38

11. The SPCB discussed its policy on the flying of flags at Holyrood and how significant events and/or anniversaries were marked. The SPCB confirmed it remained content with the current Policy and agreed a framework to aid decisions on requests to fly additional flags. The SPCB also agreed to have a further discussion on Paul Sweeney's request (PQ S6W-24739) for consideration of a Parliament flag at a future meeting.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 16 May 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
May 2024