



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 9am, in Q1.03, QH

Present:

- Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair)
- David Stewart MSP
- Ruth Davidson MSP
- Andy Wightman MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Sandra White MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- Derek Croll
- Mairi Pearson
- Colin Chisholm
- Brian Mitchell
- Roy Devon
- Tracey White
- Joanne McNaughton
- Huw Williams
- Eric MacLeod
- Graeme Donoghue
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary
- ACC Kenny MacDonald, Police Scotland
- Chief Supt Sean Scott, Police Scotland

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the previous meeting held on 19 December 2019.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Security update

3. Police Scotland attended to provide a regular briefing on security matters as they relate to Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.

Flag policy – SPCB(2020)paper 1

4. The SPCB discussed the matter of the European Flag being flown at Holyrood. The flag was flown in recognition of the UK's membership of the EU. Following the UK's decision to leave the EU, the SPCB agreed the European Flag would no longer be flown on a daily basis at the Scottish Parliament. In reaching this decision, the SPCB took account of its responsibility to maintain and protect the neutrality of the Scottish Parliament as an institution.
5. The SPCB also agreed that the European flag could be flown on Europe Day as a mark of the UK's continued ties with that body. The flag-flying policy would be amended to reflect these decisions.

Members' expenses scheme review – discussion

6. The SPCB had a further discussion on options considered as part of the review and clarified how other areas highlighted could be taken forward in the future.

Event – SPCB(2020)paper 2

7. The SPCB agreed to support Scotland's bid to host the 8th Parliament of the World's Religions in 2021 or 2022.

Any other business

Chamber sound and voting system

8. The SPCB noted that a questionnaire would be issuing to all MSPs in connection with replacement of the current system. Further information about the exercise would be presented at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

9. The next meeting of the SPCB was due to take place on Thursday 30 January 2020.