



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 14.15hrs, Q1.03 (hybrid)**

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Judith Morrison
- Cristine Livingstone
- Huw Williams
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary
  
- Superintendent David Robertson, Police Scotland

## **SOCPA Designation of Holyrood: next steps – SPCB(2021)Paper 57**

1. Following an initial discussion the previous week, the SPCB met again to further discuss arrangements and guidance for how the designation of the Holyrood site would operate.
2. Superintendent Robertson joined the meeting to discuss and answer questions on the draft Security Protocol which set out the operational arrangements between the SPCB and Police Scotland to safely and effectively manage incidents in the exceptional event of very serious disruption or potentially dangerous escalations and activities where the use of the SOCPA designation may be required.

3. SPCB members sought clarification on a number of aspects in relation to the steps taken and matters taken into consideration by Police Scotland when assessing a situation and whether to make any intervention. The content, specifically in respect of human rights, and methods of training for officers on the ground to deal with situations were also discussed.
4. Superintendent Robertson advised that Police Scotland had been consulted by the Parliament's security staff throughout the process of drafting the protocol and had liaised with colleagues in England who had experience of working with SOCPA. On the basis of mechanisms being in place to enable timeous communications with and authority to be obtained from the SPCB, he was content that the protocol as drafted was suitable to enable Police Scotland to operate.
5. The SPCB thanked the Superintendent for attending.
6. The SPCB reaffirmed that it would be the decision maker as to if SOCPA was to be used and only in extreme circumstances would this authority be delegated.
7. Following further discussion, the Presiding Officer asked if all members were content to agree the Security Protocol which set out the operational arrangements between SPCB and Police Scotland to safely and effectively manage the Holyrood campus in the event of very serious disruption, or potentially dangerous escalations and activities, where they may require to use the SOCPA designation. Maggie Chapman requested a vote on the matter, the result of which was:

Claire Baker MSP	agreed
Jackson Carlaw MSP	agreed
Maggie Chapman MSP	not agreed
Christine Grahame MSP	agreed
Alison Johnstone MSP	agreed
8. The decision of the Corporate Body was therefore that the Security Protocol be agreed.
9. The SPCB went on to discuss and, subject to some suggested changes, agree an updated Protest Policy which would be published on the Parliament's website.

**SPCB secretariat**  
September 2021