



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 24 November 2022 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Huw Williams
- Janice Crerar
- Sara Glass
- Willie Heigh
- Lorna Foreman
- Mark Brough
- Eric MacLeod
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 10 November 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted correspondence relating to a Member-sponsored event.

Chief Executive's Report

3. The Chief Executive introduced his Report which included the Quarter 2 finance and performance reports. Other activities highlighted included: an update on the Members' Staff Development Programme and Caseworker Forum; information about the retention and re-use of furniture in Holyrood and Members' local offices; an update on cyber security; and an update on the recent successful testing of Holyrood's backup generator.
4. The SPCB discussed factors such as problems with supply chains and the ability to recruit staff as impacting on expenditure levels. The SPCB also discussed the processing of Motions. The high volume of Motions being laid continued to impact on turn-around times and the SPCB noted that any review or change in this area would fall to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to pursue.
5. The SPCB noted the Report.

Electoral Commission supplementary budget request – Paper 69

6. Since April 2022 the SPCB has had a statutory duty to provide funding for the Electoral Commission's devolved activities in Scotland. The SPCB received a supplementary budget application from the Commission and had requested further information to enable it to consider the request.
7. The SPCB recorded its dissatisfaction with the circumstances leading to the need for the request and invited officials to relay this to the Commission.
8. The SPCB agreed the request on this occasion.

Officeholder budgets 2023-24 – Paper 71

9. As part of its 2023-24 budget bid process, the SPCB considered budget proposals presented by officeholders. The SPCB agreed to put the bids and contingency provisions forward as part of its budget bid to the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

SPCB 2023-24 budget

10. The SPCB continued consideration of its 2023-24 budget. A paper would be provided for the next meeting based on the outcomes of this discussion.

Risk and issues management

11. The SPCB discussed options for providing support to staff to assist during the current cost of living crisis. Formal proposals would be circulated for agreement by correspondence.

Any other business

Recruitment of Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland

12. The SPCB was invited to endorse the decision of the selection panel to seek the agreement of the Parliament to appoint Ian Bruce as the new Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.
13. The SPCB endorsed the decision. Jackson Carlaw MSP abstained.

Date of next meeting

14. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 8 December 2022.

SPCB secretariat
November 2022