



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 28 November 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
- Michelle Hegarty
- Sara Glass, Beki Stark
- James Vinestock
- Lorna Foreman, Sally Coyne, Mark McMillan, Maureen Greig
- Janice Crerar
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Meeting with the Standards Commission for Scotland

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with Standards Commission for Scotland (SCS). The SPCB welcomed the following Commission Members—

- Suzanne Vestri, Convener
- Ashleigh Dunn, Member
- Helen Donaldson, Member
- Lezley Stewart, Member
- Morag Ferguson, Member

2. The discussion covered a range of areas including the types of complaints the SCS adjudicates on, the improved relationship with the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland and the Finance and Public Administration Committee's (FPAC) report on Scotland's Commissioner Landscape.
3. The SPCB thanked Commission members for their attendance.

Meeting with the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland

4. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland (ESC). The SPCB welcomed Ian Bruce.
5. The SPCB discussed a range of matters with the Commissioner including the increased volume of complaints received during 2023-24 and the possible reasons for this. The discussion also covered the positive impact of additional staff to the ESC's workload, ESC's improved relationship with the SCS and FPAC's report on Scotland's Commissioner Landscape.
6. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for his attendance.

Previous minutes

7. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 14 November 2024.

Matters arising

8. The SPCB received an update on the progress of the independent review of the complaints process.
9. The following item was dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting—
 - An update from the Director of People, Communications and Inclusion explaining that the Worker Protection (Amendment to Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 came into force on 26 October 2024, and how the SPCB and Members, as employers, comply with the new legislation through existing arrangements.

Chief Executive's Report

10. The SPCB considered the Chief Executive's Report which highlights activities from mid-September to November 2024 and includes Quarter 2 Finance, Performance and Workforce Data reports.

11. The SPCB discussed a number of items referred to in the report. This included the volume of legislation expected to be scrutinised during the remainder of session 6 and remote participation in Parliamentary business. It also welcomed an increase in the Scottish Parliament staff attendance rate since the previous quarter.

12. The SPCB noted the report.

2025-26 Budget: Paper 73

13. The SPCB discussed and agreed the budget bid to be submitted to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for consideration in January 2025.

Annual Procurement Report 2023-24: Paper 74

14. The SPCB considered the Annual Procurement Report 2023-24, which sets out progress and achievements in the delivery of the SPCB Procurement Strategy 2020-24.

15. The SPCB welcomed the report and noted in particular the community benefits delivered through existing contracts during the reporting year.

16. The SPCB approved the report for publication.

British Sign Language Plan 2025-31: Paper 75

17. The SPCB considered the refreshed British Sign Language Plan 2025-31. It commended the work undertaken to produce the plan and noted plans to broaden consultation activity beyond the central belt of Scotland in the future.

18. The SPCB welcomed the plan and looks forward to receiving an annual progress report in 2025.

19. The SPCB approved the plan for publication.

Officeholders

Scottish Human Rights Commission

20. The SPCB considered correspondence from the Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise in relation to new functions for the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. The SPCB agreed its response to the Minister.

Scottish Information Commissioner

21. The SPCB considered a business case outwith expected budget preparation timescales from the Scottish Information Commissioner seeking additional funding for additional staff to undertake intervention work in 2025/26.
22. The SPCB refused the request but invited the Commissioner to resubmit his business case as part of the 2026/27 budget round.

Date of next meeting

23. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 12 December 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
December 2024