



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Christine Grahame MSP – attended for AOB discussion

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill, Becky Thomson, Judith Morrison, Stephen Wright
- Alan Durward
- Roy Devon
- Lorna Foreman, Jane McEwan
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 16 May 2024.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB met on 22 May to receive an update on a subject access request received and being dealt with by officials.

3. Maggie Chapman MSP and Jackson Carlaw MSP provided feedback on their evidence session to the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 28 May as part of its inquiry into Scotland's Commissioner landscape.
4. The SPCB agreed the following by correspondence:
SPCB (2024) Paper 44 – security work request

Un-authorised camp

5. The SPCB received an update on the camp in the grounds of the Parliament and recent discussions between officials and Police Scotland.

Chief Executive's Report

6. The Clerk/Chief Executive presented his regular report, highlighting in particular the successful introduction of a new chamber conferencing system and the development of a permanent green screen studio to support the growth of the use of British Sign Language (BSL).
7. The report also included the Quarter 4 finance, performance and workforce reports for the organisation.
8. The SPCB noted positive feedback received from MSPs around the service received from engagement and broadcasting teams and also discussed some of the activities reported as status red in the performance report. The SPCB also noted the improved budget profiling over the course of the year and the overall outturn figures.
9. The SPCB noted the report.

Parliament flag

10. The SPCB agreed to have a further discussion at a future meeting on Paul Sweeney MSP's request (PQ S6W-24739) for consideration of a Parliament flag.

Festival of Politics 2024 – SPCB (2024) Paper 43

11. The SPCB noted an update on the preparations ahead of this year's Festival of Politics, due to run between 19 and 23 August, and agreed the programme. All SPCB members, along with other MSPs and external guests, would be involved in chairing events.

12. The SPCB also noted that the 25th anniversary celebration event planned for 29 June was being rescheduled for after the summer recess.

Media access policy

13. The SPCB discussed recent activity by some members of the media in the Parliament building. It was noted that the SPCB's rules around media access in the Parliament were more open than other legislatures but this was in keeping with the Parliament's ethos of openness and transparency and the SPCB was content to maintain its existing Policy. The SPCB did however note that movement around the building had been hampered on occasions for Members, staff and visitors, particularly those with mobility issues, and officials were asked to continue liaising with the Scottish Parliamentary Journalists' Association on what constituted acceptable behaviour.

Any Other Business

14. The SPCB discussed the implications of Parliament's resolution that called on the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to initiate an independent review of the Parliament's complaints process.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 13 June 2024.

SPCB Secretariat
May 2024