



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 09.00. (hybrid)

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Tommy Lynch
- Janice Crerar
- Fergus Cochrane
- Lynsey Hamill
- David Hershaw
- Lorna Foreman
- Neil Mackie
- Sara Glass
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Huw Williams
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 24 February 2022.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Covid-19 Update - discussion

3. The SPCB noted the operational arrangements expected to gradually resume from 21 March on the presumption there were no unexpected changes arising from the First Minister's next update on 15 March. The new focus was on restoring full parliamentary services while maintaining appropriate mitigations against covid-19. SPCB also agreed the measures which it expected to maintain onsite as part of its health and safety responsibilities, subject to confirmation of Scottish Government guidance.
4. Detailed communications would be issued to all MSPs and staff on the anticipated changes.

The meeting was suspended at 9.25am and resumed at 9.45am.

Recruitment of Scottish Human Rights Commission members – Paper 14

5. The SPCB noted that the Commission was entering a period of significant change, with a number of changes in membership due to take place in the coming months, and was keen to ensure plans were in place to provide appropriate support. The SPCB requested additional information about the recruitment of new Members to the Commission and agreed to consider further by correspondence.

Scottish Human Rights Commission: appointment of Accountable Officer – Paper 15

6. The SPCB agreed the appointment of Andrew Munro as the Accountable Officer for the Scottish Human Rights Commission from 12 March 2022 until the newly appointed chair takes up office.

Officeholder contingency applications – Paper 16

7. The SPCB approved contingency funding applications from the Acting Ethical Standards Commissioner and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Parliamentary travel – Paper 17

8. The SPCB noted the details of travel for three MSPs to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region annual conference and approved the associated costs.

Catering services and tariff update – Paper 18

9. The SPCB received an update on the catering outlets within Holyrood, the impact of covid-19 and the steps being taken to re-establish and develop services. The SPCB noted the changes implemented to date and welcomed, in particular, the positive feedback in relation to the Holyrood Room and Queensberry House Lounge.

10. The SPCB noted that VAT on hospitality items was expected to increase in April back to 20% from the current level of 12.5% and this would impact on prices. The SPCB agreed tariff levels for each of the catering outlets, coming into effect from 1 April 2022.

SPCB staff pay – Paper 19

11. The SPCB received a briefing on the current staffing pay structure and the economic context for this year's pay negotiations. The SPCB noted the current volatility in the rate of inflation; the finite resources in the agreed 2022-23 budget; and that any increase above the indicative provision would need to be funded from contingency.

12. Discussions with the TUS were ongoing and the SPCB would be kept updated on negotiations.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 24 March 2022.

SPCB secretariat
March 2022