



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 19 May 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
- Callum Thomson
- Jenny Mouncer
- Alan Balharrie
- Lynsey Hamill
- Lianne Robertson
- Victoria Barby
- John Paterson
- Leanne Smith
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Huw Williams
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 21 April and 5 May 2022.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB received an update relating to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.
3. The SPCB noted that the following items had been considered by correspondence since the previous meeting:

- approved a contingency request from the Scottish Human Rights Commission.
- agreed a response to the Finance and Public Administration and Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committees' letter about support to officeholders (s22 Report).
- Noted an update on covid-19 organisational management arrangements.
- Noted updates on proposed new officeholders.

Evidence session with the Finance and Public Administration Committee – oral

4. The SPCB discussed the evidence session attended by Jackson Carlaw and officials earlier in the week.

Chief Executive's Report

5. The main focus of the report was on getting back to business as usual with updates on work being done to improve facilities used to support hybrid working and the re-opening of access to members of the public. The Report also included the quarter 4 finance and performance reports. There were still some minor reconciliations to be done on the accounts but these would not change the figures significantly. An underspend of 3.5% was being reported which was unusually high and due, in part, to impacts of covid on supply chains.

6. The SPCB discussed a number of subjects raised in the report including arrangements for Cross Party Group meetings and rising energy costs. The SPCB also noted its appreciation of the work of the Participation and Communities Team for their support in the work of committees.

7. The SPCB noted the Report.

Appointment of advisers to a committee – Paper 35

8. The SPCB approved a request from the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to appoint 2 advisers.

Holyrood telephone system replacement – Paper 36

9. The SPCB received an update on the project to replace the systems that are currently used to provide the telephone services at Holyrood. The exchange used by the Parliament was being upgraded to a new digital service in the summer as part of the UK wide switch to digital, driven by the telephone providers looking to modernise their ageing infrastructure and equipment.

9. The SPCB noted the update and the planned communications and engagement with Members and their staff as part of the exercise to design the new system.

Use of Queensberry House Lounge – Paper 37

10. The SPCB agreed the use of the Queensberry House Lounge from 31 May to 9 June (10am to 2pm on business days) to provide a designated place for people to meet in person with the purpose of connecting and learning from one another. This initiative was designed to help Members, their staff and parliamentary staff to connect and build relationships now that attendance at Holyrood was increasing.

11. It was noted that outwith this particular initiative, the QBH Lounge would continue to be a dedicated space for Members and their guests to meet during business days up to 4pm, after which it is open to all building users.

Sustainable development – Paper 38

12. The SPCB received an update on the work ongoing across the organisation as part of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Plan. The Plan is underpinned by 3 interconnected pillars:

1. Climate change – how the Parliament reduces the environmental impact of its operations/activities;
2. Scrutiny – how to improve scrutiny, legislation and budgetary oversight using the lens of sustainable development; and
3. Engagement and embedding sustainable development thinking.

13. The SPCB would receive further detail over the summer on options for how the organisation could prioritise the significant investments that would be required to achieve its statutory duties including reaching net zero by no later than 2045.

Date of next meeting

14. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 16 June 2022.

SPCB secretariat
May 2022