



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 12.30pm

Present:

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Beatrice Wishart MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party
- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant
- Hannah Johnson, Knowledge Exchange Lead - Senedd Cymru & Senior Gender Adviser - INTER PARES

Apologies:

- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour Party
- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party

In attendance:

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group
- Mark Brough, Principal Private Secretary, Office of the Presiding Officer
- Polly Davidson, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Linda Peters, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Lynn Robertson, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Caroline Vevers, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Kerri Whiteside, Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat
- Tom Malone, Parliament Communications Office

Item 1: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising.

1.1 The Group agreed the Minutes of the previous meeting.

1.2 The Group welcomed Allan Campbell, who recently took up the post of Head of Operations, and all present introduced themselves. It also expressed its grateful thanks to Susan Duffy, previous Group Head of Engagement and Communications, for all her work on this project.

Item 2: Update on the progress on recommendations:

2.1 The Group noted the update paper and that it would receive a separate update on recommendations 9 and 30.

Item 3: Data Recommendations (Recommendations 9 and 30)

3.1 Emma Robinson and Courtney Aitken from SPICe attended and spoke to the paper setting out the results of the Diversity Monitoring Form and the Experiential Survey.

3.2 The Group discussed the content of the paper and how to achieve a higher response rate for future surveys. It was suggested it would be helpful if, in future, surveys could be available to be completed at an event or a parliamentary stall.

3.4 There was also discussion about use of the data and its publication. It was agreed it could be useful to include this data in induction packs as well as general engagement within the Parliament. Discussion around publication of the data led to agreement by the Group that more time was needed to consider the findings before taking a decision on next steps. It was agreed SPICe would come back to the Advisory Group with an update on a suggested approach to sharing the data with MSPs and publishing to the Parliament website.

Item 4: Any other business

4.1 The success of the recently held Inaugural Women's Caucus, at which Harriet Harman was the guest speaker, was discussed. The Group considered ways to maximise participation at future Caucus meetings.

Item 5: Time and date of next meeting

5.1 The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 September at 6.30 pm.

**Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group Secretariat
June 2024**