



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 12.15pm

Present:

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour 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
- Hannah Johnson, Knowledge Exchange Lead - Senedd Cymru & Senior Gender Adviser - INTER PARES
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Apologies:

- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party

In attendance:

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group
- Emma Robinson, Scottish Parliament Information Centre
- Courtney Aitken, Scottish Parliament Information Centre

Officials supporting the Advisory Group and officials from the Office of the Presiding Officer also attended.

Item 1: Introductions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Ruth Maguire

Item 2: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The Group agreed the Minute of the previous meeting.

Item 3: Update on progress on recommendations

3.1 The Group received the following updates:

- Recommendation 2 – the Advisory Group noted the guide produced by Meryl Kenny and Sarah Childs and that it should be ready for publication during the upcoming weeks.
- Recommendation 3 – the application for funding from the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities towards the Parliament's disability audit will be submitted before the deadline of 13 December.
- Recommendation 6 – the Advisory Group noted that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will take evidence in connection with this recommendation at its meeting on 19 November.
- Recommendation 8 – People Services advised that funding for internships is not likely to be available until next session. Allan Campbell to follow up again with People Services.
- Recommendation 18 – the Advisory Group noted that a meeting had taken place between the Presiding Officer, supported by members of the Group, and members of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. The Committee is expected to write to the Presiding Officer following further consideration of the recommendations. The letter will be shared with a future meeting of the Advisory Group.
- Recommendation 28 – the Advisory Group suggested that a phased approach to induction of new members after the next election would be helpful, with a programme extending for several months.
- Recommendation 31 – the Advisory Group agreed to invite a colleague from SPICe to attend January's meeting to talk to this recommendation. It was also noted that external contributors could also be involved.

Item 4: Update on diversity monitoring data recommendations (recommendations 9 and 30)

4.1 Emma Robinson provided an update. The Group considered whether to publish the results of the member diversity survey and agreed that the results will not be published, but the survey return rate, along with next steps, will be. It was noted that this approach is consistent with the privacy notice and does not compromise confidentiality.

4.2 Courtney Aitken provided an update on the member experience survey data and the Group discussed proposed options for publication. The Group agreed with the proposals for publication that were made by SPICe.

4.3 The Presiding Officer expressed her thanks to SPICe colleagues for their work on this.

Item 5: Update on November caucus

5.1 The Group noted that a meeting of the caucus proposed for November will not proceed. A proposed programme for next year will be shared with the Group as soon as possible. The Presiding Officer is exploring whether the Parliament might hold a caucus event with those involved in caucuses in other parliaments.

Item 6. Any other business

7.1 It was noted that INTER PARES has published [a new handbook](#) that includes a chapter on gender-sensitive oversight and lawmaking.

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