



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Tuesday 28 January at 6.00pm

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
- Rona Mackay MSP, Scottish National Party
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitaju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Apologies:

- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Hannah Johnson, Knowledge Exchange Lead - Senedd Cymru & Senior Gender Adviser - INTER PARES

In attendance:

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group
- Nicki Georghiou, 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 Hannah Johnson and Sarah Childs

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 8 – The Advisory Group discussed how they could help publicise internships, what makes a successful internship and ways a parliament intern could be supported at feeling part of the team. Allan Campbell to include internships in the communication plan for Gender Sensitive Audit work that is going to be published and to open conversation with the John Smith Centre, that organises internships, on any learning points for successful internships.
- Recommendation 2: The Presiding Officer advised the guide will be published on 5 February and thanked Meryl Kenny and Sarah Childs for all their hard work. Allan Campbell to liaise with University of Edinburgh who has funding to assist with wider dissemination of the guide.

Item 4: Update on academic fellowship recommendation (recommendation 31):

4.1 Nicki Georghiou provided an update, and the Advisory Group discussed draft guidance on gender sensitive scrutiny for committees. Allan to circulate the guidance before the next meeting.

Item 5: Discussion on correspondence received from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee:

5.1 The Advisory Group agreed to defer consideration of this item to a future meeting.

Item 6: Discussion on correspondence received from the Equalities Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee:

6.1 The Presiding Officer stated her thanks to the Committee for their informative letter. The Advisory Group discussed the correspondence and agreed to consider a draft letter at a future meeting.

Item 7. Any other business

7.1 No further business items were raised.

January 2025