



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Conveners Group

Minutes

7th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6) 24 November 2024

Present:

Liam McArthur MSP, Convener
Karen Adam - Equalities, Human Rights & Civil Justice Committee
Clare Adamson – Constitution, Europe, External Affairs & Culture Committee
Ariane Burgess - Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee
Jackson Carlaw - Citizen Participation & Public Petitions Committee
Finlay Carson - Rural Affairs and Islands
Kenneth Gibson – Finance & Public Administration Committee
Clare Haughey - Health, Social Care & Sport Committee
Richard Leonard - Public Audit Committee
Stuart McMillan - Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
Edward Mountain - Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee
Audrey Nicoll - Criminal Justice Committee
Douglas Ross - Education, Children and Young People Committee
Colin Smyth - Economy & Fair Work Committee
Collette Stevenson – Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Martin Whitfield - Standards, Procedures & Public Appointments Committee

Apologies were received from:

None.

Also in attendance for Item 2:

Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Steven Macgregor, Head of Parliament and Legislation Unit, Scottish Government.

1. **Minutes:** The Conveners Group agreed the minutes of the last meeting.
2. **Minister for Parliamentary Business:** The Group heard from Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Parliamentary Business, on parliamentary business matters affecting the work of committees.

3. **Expedited scrutiny process for affirmative instruments:** The Group considered an update from Stuart McMillan, Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, on the scrutiny of instruments subject to the affirmative procedure under an expedited timescale. The Group agreed that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee should finalise and agree the proposed process for the scrutiny of instruments subject to the affirmative procedure under an expedited timescale with the Minister for Parliamentary Business.
4. **COSLA:** The Group considered an approach to an informal meeting with COSLA representatives. The Group agreed to meet with the COSLA presidential team and spokespeople in an informal, private meeting in the new year. The Group agreed to extend its usual meeting slot by 15 minutes to consider any other business if required.
5. **Climate Change Plan:** The Group considered an update from Edward Mountain, Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change Committee, on cross-committee scrutiny of the Climate Change Plan. The Group agreed to commission a bespoke summary of the Climate Change Plan from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre to be considered at a future meeting as soon as practicable after its publication.
6. **Any other business:**
 - The Group considered correspondence from the Finance and Public Administration Committee. The Group agreed to consider a paper on cross-committee scrutiny of the National Outcomes at a future meeting.
 - The Group noted correspondence from the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee regarding the conduct of committee witnesses and agreed that the matter was covered by Rules 7.3.1 and 7.8.1 of Standing Orders and the Guidance on Committees.
 - The Group noted correspondence from the Scottish Food Coalition on the draft National Good Food Nation Plan.
 - The Group considered the Parliament's resolution to create a new ad hoc committee (the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee) and the day when the proposed Committee will meet. The Group also considered the Public Audit Committee's interest in meeting on an alternative day. The Group noted that it does not have a formal role in this decision and that it is a matter for the Parliamentary Bureau to recommend the establishment of the proposed SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee to the Parliament and to nominate its membership. In doing so, the Group noted that Business Managers will need to consider the availability of their members in light of their existing committee membership commitments, which in turn will inform the decision on which day the committee will meet. The Group agreed to write to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee to ask it to consider the limitations of the Thursday committee meeting slot as part of its inquiry into committee effectiveness.

Date of Next Meeting: 26 February 2025

Contact details for the clerk

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