



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

By email

All correspondence c/o:
Finance and Public
Administration Committee Clerks
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5219
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
FPA.committee@parliament.scot

30 March 2022

Dear Presiding Officer

The Finance and Public Administration Committee has recently become aware through media reports that the cost of the new website to date is £3,038,000. As part of our scrutiny role in relation to SPCB budget bids and, given the significant sums of public money involved in this project, we would welcome a response from the SPCB to the following questions:

- how the figure of £3,038,000 has been arrived at, including breakdowns for each financial year, and by phase, and details of capital and licensing costs and other relevant details,
- how this figure compares to the projected costs in the original business case/project bid and, if there has been slippage, how this has impacted on other budget areas or programmes,
- what tendering process was in place for the project,
- what the trigger point for SPCB approval is and what sign-off procedures are in place,
- when the development phase ends, what are the ongoing costs of maintenance and improvement, and whether the Parliament is continuing to use external consultants (at what day rate and by role type), or if this is managed internally only,
- the reasons why the project has taken so long to complete,

- what consultation was undertaken, including of MSPs, on how the website should look and the information it should contain,
- what the spend has achieved and whether the SPCB considers this project to be value for money,
- how the SPCB is addressing concerns raised by MSPs regarding the functionality of the website, and
- how the SPCB has assessed the benefits of the new website, whether a 'lessons learned' exercise of the project has been undertaken and, if so, what is the outcome.

We look forward to receiving a comprehensive response to the issues raised in this letter by 26 April. Please do get in touch if there are any concerns around this timetable.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee