



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 12 December 2024 at 9.00am

Present:

- Alison Johnstone MSP (chair)
- Claire Baker MSP
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP

Apologies:

- Christine Grahame MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Janice Crerar
- Sara Glass, Peter Walker
- Allan Campbell
- Susan Mansfield
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Meeting with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPCB welcomed Rosemary Agnew.
2. During the meeting, a range of areas were discussed including the changing nature of complaints received by the SPSO, opportunities for

future efficiencies through shared services and the recent introduction of a child-friendly complaints process.

3. The SPCB thanked the Ombudsman for her service and wished her well for the future, noting that she will demit office in April 2025.

Meeting with the Scottish Information Commissioner

4. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Information Commissioner. The SPCB welcomed David Hamilton.
5. The SPCB discussed a range of matters with the Commissioner including the positive impact of contingency funding to address a backlog of cases, staff resources and future plans for intervention work.
6. The SPCB also noted the Commissioner's plans to mark the 20th anniversary of Freedom of Information rights being introduced in Scotland.
7. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for his attendance.

Previous minutes

8. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 28 November 2024.

Matters arising

9. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting—
 - The SPCB agreed a draft letter to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee regarding the Lobbying Register following discussion at its meeting on 14 November 2024.
 - Paper 80: The SPCB approved a request for the cost of security improvements to a Member's local office to be met.
10. Following initial consideration of SPCB (2024) Paper 68 at its meeting on 14 November 2024, the SPCB approved a request for the cost of security improvements to a Member's local office to be met.

Exceptional expenses: Paper 76

11. The SPCB approved an application for exceptional expenses for repairs to a Member's constituency office.

Disability application: Paper 77

12. The SPCB approved an application under the disability provision in the Members' Expenses Scheme.

Travel provision application: Paper 78

13. The SPCB approved an application for the cost of travel for attendance at the Labour Parliamentary Group Awayday in January 2025 to be met.

Futures Forum Review: Paper 79

14. The SPCB agreed to commission a review of Scotland's Futures Forum including the scope, approach, timeframe and governance arrangements.

Any Other Business

15. The SPCB received an update on the recruitment of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland and noted the proposed next steps.

Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 23 January 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
December 2024