



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2025 at 9.00am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Janice Crerar
- Callum Thomson
- Lynsey Hamill
- Tracey White
- Mairi Pearson
- Lorna Foreman
- Neil Mackie
- Kenny Htet-Khin
- Allan Campbell
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Meeting with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner (SBC). The SPCB welcomed Dr Brian Plastow, the Commissioner and Ross Macdonald, SBC Director to the meeting.

2. During the discussion, the SBC outlined ways in which it keeps up to date with developments in biometrics technologies and how it is engaging the public in its work. Other areas covered included its work with a range of strategic partners, and the positive outcome of the first Biometrics in Criminal Justice Conference, which the SBC co-hosted with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. The work of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee was also discussed during the meeting.
3. The SPCB thanked Dr Plastow and Mr Macdonald for their attendance.

Meeting with the Electoral Commission

4. The SPCB welcomed Dame Sue Bruce, Commissioner with responsibility for Scotland, Vijay Rangarajan, Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Killeen, Director of Electoral Administration and Regulation, Andy O'Neil, Head of Electoral Commission Scotland and Natalie Mauchline, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer (Scotland).
5. The SPCB discussed a range of matters with the Electoral Commission (EC). This included the work it is progressing to support voters and encourage participation, and to support local election teams to deliver forthcoming elections. The EC also highlighted ways in which it is working to help voters identify disinformation during election campaigns and the strengthened protections it has put in place against cyber threats.
6. The SPCB thanked the Electoral Commission for attending.

Previous minutes

7. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 6 February 2025.

Matters arising

8. The SPCB received an update on a parliamentary business matter.
9. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting—
 - An update from the Clerk/Chief Executive on the work of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee.
 - Paper 9: The SPCB approved the details of travel associated with an outward visit to the Faroe Islands, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
 - The SPCB noted that its planning day is scheduled for 28 August 2025.

Allowances – Members’ Communication Policy: Paper 10

10. The SPCB noted that a breach of the rules regarding the Policy on Members’ parliamentary funded communications had occurred. The SPCB agreed that the Head of Allowances write to the Member to remind them of the requirements of the policy. It also agreed that the Head of Allowances advise the complainant of the outcome of the matter.

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme – amendment SPCB Overtime Policy: Paper 11

11. The SPCB considered and agreed a revised overtime policy, to ensure consistency with the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme rules.

Officeholder Recruitment – Members of the Scottish Human Rights Commission: Paper 12

12. The SPCB agreed the terms and conditions of appointment for two new members of the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Officeholders – Contingency Requests: Paper 13

13. The SPCB agreed contingency requests received from the Standards Commission for Scotland and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, as set out in the paper.

Any Other Business

14. The SPCB agreed to fly the International Women’s Day flag on 8 March 2025.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 6 March 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
February 2025