



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 6 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
- Sara Glass
- Mairi Pearson
- Helen Birrell
- Barry Lang
- Allan Campbell
- Sigrid Robinson
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Lisa Creamer
- Lynn Russell, Head of Secretariat

Meeting with the Scottish Human Rights Commission

1. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The SPCB welcomed Professor Angela O'Hagan and Shelley Gray to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr Claire Methven-O'Brien.

2. During the discussion, the SHRC highlighted the positive impact of recent contingency funding provided by the SPCB to deliver the outstanding elements of the SHRC's Independence Governance Review. Other areas covered included the SHRC's engagement with stakeholders, the shared services arrangement with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and the work of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee.
3. The SPCB thanked Commission members for their attendance.

Meeting with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

4. The SPCB held its annual meeting with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. The SPCB welcomed Nicola Killean.
5. The SPCB discussed some of the key challenges facing children and young people in Scotland and the range of work the Commissioner is progressing, particularly in relation to education, to promote and safeguard their rights. The SPCB also discussed the work of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee.
6. The SPCB thanked the Commissioner for her attendance.

Previous minutes

7. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 23 January 2025.

Matters arising

8. The SPCB received an update on a data subject access request. It also received a separate update on an allowances matter which the SPCB agreed required more fact finding from officials.
9. The following items were dealt with by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - A memo from the Head of Strategy and Portfolio Management and the Head of Organisational Development regarding plans for the annual Members' feedback interviews and a separate online survey for Members' staff.
 - In relation to the recruitment of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland, the SPCB noted that work had been undertaken to establish whether the SPCB could offer access to the NHS pension scheme instead of the Civil Service Pension Schemes as part of the

terms and conditions of appointment, to encourage a wider field of applicants. It has since been determined that access to this scheme is not possible. The post will therefore be re-advertised with the terms and conditions previously approved by the SPCB.

- Paper 8: The SPCB discussed the forthcoming Scottish Parliament outward visit to North America and approved the associated costs as set out in the paper.
- A memo from the Pay and Pensions Office confirming that the Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme Fund Trustees have appointed Legal & General Investment Management as a secondary Investment Manager.

Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme – Use of Parliamentary Resources: Paper 5

10. The SPCB noted that a breach of the rules regarding the use of parliamentary branded communication had occurred. It further noted the action subsequently taken by the Member and the minimal costs incurred, and on that basis, agreed that the Head of Allowances should write to the Member to remind them of the requirements of the use of parliamentary resources policy. The SPCB also agreed that the Head of Allowances should advise the complainant of the outcome of the matter.

Security works: Paper 6

11. The SPCB approved a Member's request for funding to cover security improvement works.

Election Programme 2026

12. The SPCB noted an update on the planning and preparation that has commenced for the Scottish parliamentary elections in May 2026. The SPCB provided feedback for the Election Programme to consider relating to the induction process for new and returning members and the support offered to non-returned members.

13. The SPCB also noted that updates would be provided to the SPCB as the programme progresses and that there will be an opportunity to consider and agree the usual guidance for Members in autumn 2025.

Date of next meeting

14. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 20 February 2025.

SPCB Secretariat
February 2025