



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 20 January 2022 at 09.00. (virtual)

Present:

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

Apologies:

- David McGill

In attendance:

- Michelle Hegarty
- Judith Morrison
- Cristine Livingstone
- Tommy Lynch
- Lorna Foreman
- Phillipa Booth
- Susan Duffy
- Sally Coyne
- Rob Littlejohn
- Audrey Gray
- Eric MacLeod
- Mark Brough
- Huw Williams
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary

Previous minutes

1. The SPCB agreed the minute of the meeting held on 16 December 2021.

Matters arising

2. The SPCB noted an update on the matter of sponsorship for overseas staff working for MSPs.
3. The SPCB had dealt with the following items by correspondence since the previous meeting:

- 3.1 Noted the Chief Executive's intention to return unallocated election contingency to the Scottish Consolidated Fund via the Spring Budget Revision.
- 3.2 Noted the onsite ATM service would be discontinued from the end of February 2022. Alternative arrangements would be available through the Post Office counter service.
- 3.3 Noted an update on the website development and a consultation exercise on the new intranet.
- 3.4 Agreed that, following further updates to the covid-19 guidance and Regulations by the First Minister, committees should continue to meet virtually w/c 17 January. This would be reviewed again following the First Minister's next statement to Parliament.

Covid-19 Update - discussion

4. The SPCB discussed the First Minister's latest covid-19 statement and noted that the restrictions on workplaces had not yet changed. It was confirmed that the position was still for employers to support working from home where possible and under the updated communal workspace regulations that 2m physical distancing was still required. It was recognised however that the direction of travel was clearly positive and the SPCB agreed that, as from w/c 25 January, committees would be able to exercise judgement on when to meet physically or in hybrid format where that was required in order for the meeting to be effective. This would be subject to the usual risk assessments being undertaken in advance. Virtual formats were still to be encouraged where possible and witnesses offered the choice either to appear in person or virtually.
5. The SPCB also discussed the long-term flexibility provided by hybrid working and noted that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee was currently looking into this in the context of parliamentary business.
6. The SPCB noted that planning was well in hand to move quickly on the re-introduction of services on-site and opening access to Holyrood for the public as soon as public health measures allowed and it was safe in terms of sustaining parliamentary business. A communication would issue to all Members on these matters.

Diversity Monitoring and Pay Gaps Report – Paper 1

7. The SPCB discussed the Report, noting the actions being taken to address the issues highlighted, and agreed its publication.

Gaelic Language Plan Annual Report 2020-21 – Paper 2

8. The SPCB agreed the Annual Report and that it should be forwarded to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Scotland's Futures Forum Annual Report 2020-21 – Paper 3

9. The SPCB received a briefing on the work of the Forum over the past year, noting that its engagement activities had been impacted by covid-19, and a look ahead to plans for the coming year. The SPCB noted the 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 3 February 2022.

SPCB secretariat

January 2022