



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 09.00, via Teams

Present:

- Ken Macintosh MSP (Chair)
- Jackson Carlaw MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- David Stewart MSP
- Sandra White MSP
- Andy Wightman MSP

In attendance:

- David McGill
- Michelle Hegarty
- Lynsey Hamill
- Becky Thomson
- John Paterson
- Alan Balharrie
- Roy Devon
- Graeme Cook
- Janice Crerar
- Huw Williams
- Eric MacLeod
- Joanne McNaughton
- Lisa Creamer
- Judith Proudfoot, Secretary
- ACC Tim Mairs, Police Scotland
- Supt David Robertson, Police Scotland

Police Scotland briefing

1. ACC Tim Mairs and Supt David Robertson attended to provide the regular briefing to the Corporate Body on general security matters as they related to the Scottish Parliament.

Previous minutes

2. The SPCB agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 18 and 23 February 2021.

Matters arising

3. The SPCB had agreed a request from the SGHHC Committee to meet at Holyrood on a non-business day subject to the risk assessment and mitigating actions being in place.

Security update – SPCB(2021)Paper 15

4. The SPCB noted an update on progress of the Security Maturity Programme.

IT security – SPCB(2021)Paper 16

5. The SPCB received an update on elements of cyber security including ‘phishing’; malware; and account cloning/hijacking. Guidance had been issued to MSPs and staff the previous week and it was agreed it would be helpful to re-issue this at the start of the new Session.
6. The SPCB also agreed changes to its password policy.

Events: COP26 – SPCB(2021)Paper 17

7. This paper provided a summary of the current thinking and planning in regard to the Scottish Parliament’s involvement in COP26. Focus had been on areas aligned with the SPCB’s Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and discussions were taking place with potential partner organisations and legislatures.
8. The SPCB welcomed the work being done, recognising the opportunities presented by COP26 being hosted in Scotland. The SPCB noted that the hosting of any ‘in-person’ event at Holyrood needed to be considered carefully in light of the current planning assumption that it was unlikely that significant public engagement activities could be held at Holyrood before the end of 2021 due to covid-19 restrictions and wider operational arrangements in place. While this was being kept under review, any proposal to host an event in relation to COP26 must be considered in light of that and ongoing public health requirements.
9. That said, the SPCB agreed that officials should pursue work with partners to develop and deliver an international legislators’ event to be hosted at the Scottish Parliament in November. Alternative arrangements would be developed in parallel to accommodate any covid-19 restrictions in place at that time. A detailed plan would be brought back to the SPCB for final approval.

Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland - handling of complaints – SPCB(2021)Paper 18

10. The SPCB noted an update on correspondence received relating to the handling of complaints by the Ethical Standards Commissioner. The SPCB agreed to write to the Commissioner and to share the matter with the Standards, Procedures and Public

Appointments Committee and the Local Government and Communities Committee. The SPCB would then respond to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning who had also corresponded on the matter.

AOB

Covid update

11. The SPCB noted an update on the management of a small number of positive covid test results at Holyrood. Officials were liaising with Health Protection Scotland.

Facilities Management

12. The SPCB received a report on the building cladding panels and noted the planned programme of recommended maintenance work.

Date of next meeting

13. The next meeting of the SPCB was scheduled for 18 March 2021.

SPCB secretariat
March 2021