

The  
Scottish  
Parliament

CB/2/257

To: SPCB Members  
cc: Ann Nelson, Barbara Doig, Stewart Gilfillan, Sarah Davidson  
From: Paul Grice  
Office: Clerk/Chief Executive  
Extension: 85255  
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**HOLYROOD PROJECT: PROGRESSING GROUP**

1. Further to our discussion at the Corporate Body meeting yesterday, I attach papers on the proposed Holyrood Progressing Group. We have concentrated, as agreed, on legal, structural and project management issues. I should stress that these are working drafts and we should very much welcome a steer at the meeting on Wednesday when we should also, of course, hopefully hear on possible membership from Tom McCabe. The papers are as follows:
  - Draft memorandum of understanding between the Corporate Body and the Holyrood Progressing Group – this includes a possible remit for the HPG.
  - A possible revised organisation structure and associated delegation of functions to the Clerk – a key issue has been the requirement to give the HPG a meaningful role whilst recognising the legal position of the SPCB and the limitations on its power to delegate functions (i.e. only to the PO or Clerk). The only device available therefore appears to be delegate functions down through the Clerk with the HPG providing advice and recommendations where appropriate. The expectation is that the Clerk and the Project Director, in particular, acting under the Clerk's delegated authority will act on the advice of the Holyrood Progressing Group. But they could not be compelled to do so and a formal line would remain from the Clerk to the Corporate Body. The Clerk must also discharge the requirements of Accountable Office placed on him by the PFA Act.
2. The purpose of these papers is to inform discussion on Wednesday. We would obviously be very happy to explain our thinking on any of the issues raised at that meeting.