



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer
Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP

Micheline Brannan
Chair of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
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Dear Micheline,

Thank you for your email of 27 April following the recent meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Palestine and I was very sorry indeed to hear of your experience at this meeting.

I appreciate your concerns first of all regarding the late alteration to the agenda of the CPG meeting. I would clarify however, that there are no rules preventing late changes to the agendas of CPG meetings and so it is for the CPG itself to decide what items to include on their agenda.

On the more substantive point about behaviour at the meeting, I acknowledge your very serious concerns about the conduct of particular members of the CPG. I am afraid to say, however, that the Code of Conduct does not contain any specific rules about how issues of poor conduct from attendees at a CPG meeting should be dealt with. *The rules that must be followed are set out in section 6 of volume 2 of the Code of Conduct and state that decisions about membership, including whether to limit the number of non-MSP members, are a matter for the Group itself. They also set out that attendance and participation by non-MSPs who are not registered members of a Group is at the discretion of the Group.* In other words, it is expected that, as appeared to happen in this case, the Convener of the meeting will take a lead in handling concerns over behaviour at the time of the meeting.

I would suggest therefore that in the first instance, you may wish to raise your concerns with the Convener of the CPG in the hope that they can be resolved in this way.



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If you do feel, however, that there has been a breach of the rules governing CPGs, then there is a complaints process set out in Volume 3, Section 6 of the code of Conduct for MSPs. Complaints about CPGs are considered by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

I hope this information is helpful and once again I am very sorry to hear about your recent experience.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP
Presiding Officer