

18 April 2018

Appointments to the Parole Board for Scotland

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson MSP, today announced the appointment of General and Legal Members to the Parole Board for Scotland.

Andrew Bates, Kathryn Dawson, Martin Macdonald, Julia Maclaren, Sandra MacAlister, Derek McGill OBE, Professor Gillian McIvor, Morag Slesser and Stephen Swan have been appointed as General Members with Simon Di Rollo, Emma Doyle, Bruce Erroch, Wendy Hay, Jill Malloy, James McLean, David Nicolson and Kate Phillips appointed as Legal Members. The appointments took effect from 1 April 2018.

Appointments – General Members

Andrew Bates completed over 32 years' service with the police before retiring from Police Scotland as Divisional Commander of Greater Glasgow Division. He has extensive working knowledge of the Scottish Criminal justice System, risk assessment and risk management. Mr Bates was appointed as a Member of the National Children's Panel in 2017.

Kathryn Dawson qualified in law from Strathclyde University in 2009. She has practised as a solicitor for six years, during which time she has regularly represented clients in Scotland's criminal courts, both as a prosecutor and a defence solicitor.

Martin Macdonald has over 40 years' experience in the Scottish Prison Service in the operational setting. During that time he held a number of senior positions as Deputy Governor and Deputy Head of Training at the Scottish Prison Service College. He also worked on a number of cross justice sector national initiatives and with other UK prison services, implemented SVQs in custodial care. Being Chair of the Risk Management Teams and Head of Residential Functions in two establishments, Mr Macdonald has experience of national top ends and progression management.

Julia Maclaren is a qualified solicitor, admitted in 2008 and for 12 years has worked for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. During that time, as a Procurator Fiscal Depute, she has gained significant experience prosecuting cases in the Sheriff Court. Since 2013, she has worked within the High Court preparing High Court prosecutions, most recently in the specialist Sexual Offences Team. Ms Maclaren has extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system, gained through close working relationships with criminal justice partners.

Sandra MacAlister is a lead nurse and has over 30 years' experience as a registered nurse in mental health. She also has nursing registration for learning disabilities and

is a specialist practitioner in community mental health. Ms MacAlister has gained 27 years' experience in a secure forensic setting as a practitioner, leader and manager at the State Hospitals Board for Scotland. She has strong skills in risk assessment and risk management.

Derek McGill OBE has an in depth knowledge of prison management, policies and procedures, particularly in relation to risk management and risk assessment. He has retired recently after 39 years in the Scottish Prison Service having held a variety of roles at senior levels across both policy roles in HQ and operational roles in a number of prisons. His operational experience includes Governor in charge roles in Greenock, Polmont YOI and Barlinnie Prisons. In 2013, he was awarded an OBE for services to Criminal Justice.

Professor Gillian Mclvor is Professor of Criminology at the University of Stirling, former Director of the Social Work Research Centre and founding co-Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. She has over 30 years' experience of understanding research and criminal justice in and beyond Scotland. Professor Mclvor is a qualified social worker and has previously served as a Member of the Scottish Prison Service and Community Justice Accreditation Panels.

Morag Slesser is a Consultant Forensic Clinical Psychologist and has worked with offenders with and without mental disorder for most of her professional life. She has most recently been Head of Psychological Services at the State Hospital, Carstairs. Ms Slesser has held several public appointments including on the Parole Board for Scotland and the Risk Management Authority Board. She has recent been appointed to the Mental Health Tribunal Service.

Stephen Swan was formerly Prison Governor and Director of the Scottish Prison Service. He has extensive knowledge of and experience in the care and management of long-term and life sentence prisoners and their transition to the community. Mr Swan also has experience and knowledge of effective governance of public sector organisations and is currently Chair of the Civil Service Appeal Board.

Appointments – Legal Members

Simon Di Rollo has appeared in many important cases in both the Civil and Criminal courts including Supreme Court/House of Lords and JSPC. He has extensive and wide-ranging experience in other courts and tribunals including the General Medical Council, the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and the Court of Arbitration for Sport at Lausanne. He lectured in civil procedure at the University of Edinburgh and was a member of the Sheriff Court Rules Council. Since 2012 most of his work has been in the field of high value reparation in the Court of Session for both pursuers and defenders.

Emma Doyle qualified as a solicitor in Scotland in 1987 and has considerable experience of working in the criminal and civil courts. She is also a trained mediator and has substantial experience of working with families and children in the third sector. In 2015, she was appointed as a General Member of the Parole Board for Scotland.

Bruce Erroch was a solicitor from 1990 to 1997 and was called to the bar in 1998 and specialised in civil litigation. In 2009, he became an Advocate Depute and was Senior Advocate Depute from 2013 to 2017. Mr Erroch represented the Crown in numerous high-profile prosecutions and appeals. In 2016, he was appointed Legal Convener to the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland and in 2017 Legal Chair of the Scottish Social Services Council.

Wendy Hay is an advocate specialising in Criminal cases and appeals. She has enjoyed 14 years of a criminal law career, dealing with clients, witnesses and members of the public. Miss Hay is the secretary of the Scottish Criminal Bar Association (SCBA) which involves organising events and the Association as a whole, together with engaging in activities to further the aims of the SCBA and its members.

Jill Malloy was admitted as a Scottish Solicitor in 1994. She has practised in both the civil and criminal courts and in 1998, she was one of the original five Solicitors appointed to the Public Defence Solicitor's Office (PDSO) pilot scheme in Edinburgh. Following that, she spent a period in private practise before returning to the PDSO on its expansion to Ayr and Kilmarnock jurisdictions in 2007. Miss Malloy has recently resigned from the PDSO to take up this role.

James McLean moved to law after a career in engineering and construction. After training at Doonan McCaig Solicitors, he has specialised in Criminal Law and has appeared and prepared cases at Sheriff and High Court leads and has Parole and Children's Hearing experience. He is currently a criminal solicitor by the SLAB/SCL ("ladder" team) and has been for over six years. Mr McLean is also a Member of the Children's Panel member and Chair's such hearing. He also teaches Criminal and Evidence Law at Edinburgh University.

David Nicolson was a solicitor for 14 years before calling at the bar in 2005. In his 13 years as an Advocate, he has acted principally as defence counsel in High Court trials. For four years he was an Advocate Depute in the Crown Office where he prepared and conducted high court prosecutions, including a number of murder trials.

Kate Phillips is a Solicitor Advocate and was admitted as a Solicitor in 1993. She has practised exclusively in criminal defence for 25 years and has been instructed in a large number of serious, complex and high profile cases in both the Sheriff Court and High Court of Justiciary. Miss Phillips has conducted many criminal trials and has extensive experience of the criminal justice system and the sentencing process in Scotland.

All of the appointments are regulated by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

Length of Terms, Remuneration and Time Commitment

The appointments are for six years and run from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2024.

General Members receive a daily fee of £205.00. Legal Members receive a daily fee of £318.00 unless acting in the capacity of a General Member when they will receive the lower daily fee of £205.00. All Members commit to around eight to ten days per month.

Other Ministerial Appointments

Mr Swan is a Member of the Board of the Risk Management Authority for which he receives a remuneration of £6,180 per annum, for a time commitment of up to 3 days per month.

Andrew Bates, Kathryn Dawson, Martin Macdonald, Julia Maclaren, Sandra MacAlister, Derek McGill, Professor Gillian Mclvor, Morag Slesser, Simon Di Rollo, Emma Doyle, Bruce Erroch, Wendy Hay, Jill Malloy, James McLean, David Nicolson and Kate Phillips do not hold any other Ministerial appointments.

Political Activity

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity within the last five years (if there is any to be declared) to be made public.

Andrew Bates, Kathryn Dawson, Martin Macdonald, Julia Maclaren, Sandra MacAlister, Derek McGill, Professor Gillian Mclvor, Morag Slesser, Stephen Swan, Simon Di Rollo, Emma Doyle, Bruce Erroch, Wendy Hay, Jill Malloy, James McLean, David Nicolson and Kate Phillips have had no political activity in the last five years.

The Parole Board for Scotland

The Parole Board for Scotland is a Tribunal Non-Departmental Public Body established under the provisions of the [Prisons \(Scotland\) Act 1989](#), the [Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings \(Scotland\) Act 1993](#) and the [Convention Rights \(Compliance\) \(Scotland\) Act 2001](#). [The Parole Board \(Scotland\) Rules 2001](#) set out the conditions which govern the exercise of the Board's duties.

The PBS is a key part of Scotland's criminal justice system. It's entirely judicially independent and its statutory functions include:

- deciding on the suitability for early release on licence of long term prisoners (those sentenced to four years or more) to serve a portion of their sentence in the community – subject to statutory requirements to release at the two-thirds stage of their sentence. The prisoner may be offered the opportunity of an oral hearing in certain circumstances;
- the power to direct the release on licence of life sentence prisoners once they have served the punishment part of their sentence if satisfied that the prisoner no longer requires to be confined for the protection of the public;
- consideration of the need to recall to custody offenders whose risk can no longer be safely managed in the community and, subject to the statutory test,

the case for directing re-release. The recalled offender may be offered the opportunity of an oral hearing in certain circumstances;

- sitting as a Tribunal, to consider the case for re-release of recalled extended sentence prisoners; and
- interviewing victims of life sentence prisoners, who under [Section 28 Victims and Witnesses Act 2014](#) can give their representations personally to a member of the PBS.

For more information about the PBS, please visit www.scottishparoleboard.gov.uk.