



Senior Management Team

Biographies

About the Senior Management Team

1. The Senior Management Team (SMT) is responsible for the development and operation of the functions supporting the Commissioner in the exercising of his duties and responsibilities.
2. The members of the SMT are:
 - Daren Fitzhenry, Scottish Information Commissioner (Chair)
 - Margaret Keyse, Head of Enforcement
 - Helen Gardner-Swift, Head of Corporate Services
 - tbc, Head of Policy and Information

Biographies



Daren Fitzhenry, Scottish Information Commissioner

3. Daren Fitzhenry took up post as Scottish Information Commissioner in October 2017, for a fixed term of six years.
4. As Scottish Information Commissioner, Daren is responsible for the enforcement and promotion of Scotland's freedom of information laws. This includes handling appeals about the way in which Scottish public authorities respond to information requests, promoting good practice and monitoring and assessing FOI performance.
5. He is strongly committed to the principles of freedom of information, recognising the significant benefits that FOI brings to society, not least its key role in enabling the public's participation and engagement in the issues which really matter to them.
6. Since taking up his post he has launched a major intervention aimed at improving FOI performance of the Scottish Government, actively engaged with the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government on the updating of FOI legislation in Scotland, overseen the largest extension of FOI to new bodies since the legislation was enacted, and laid a special report to

the Scottish Parliament examining the impact Covid-19 has had on FOI in Scotland. He was also a member of the Governance Working Group of the International Conference of Information Commissioners, actively contributing to the development of the body's Charter and leading the development of the body's first strategic plan.

7. Prior to his current role, he was a senior officer in the Royal Air Force Legal Branch, heading up its legal advisory team, with wide-ranging experience in the development, implementation and enforcement of regulatory systems.



Margaret Keyse, Head of Enforcement

8. Margaret has been Head of Enforcement since she joined the Scottish Information Commissioner in 2003.
9. She and her team carry out investigations to determine whether public authorities have complied with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.
10. She provides legal advice to the Commissioner on freedom of information matters and on appeals to the Court of Session and Supreme Court against the Commissioner's decisions.
11. Margaret has twice been appointed by the Scottish Parliament as Acting Scottish Information Commissioner in the period between Commissioners demitting office and new Commissioners taking up post.
12. Prior to her move to St Andrews, Margaret was Principal Solicitor with Angus Council, where she focused mainly on data protection issues and carried out legal work for social services.

Helen Gardner-Swift, Head of Corporate Services

13. Helen has been Head of Corporate Services since she joined the Scottish Information Commissioner in April 2017.
14. Her role is to provide assurance to the Commissioner as Accountable Officer, ensure the office is governed effectively and run efficiently and be responsible for the full range of corporate functions, including governance, budgets and finance, risk, information, H&S, HR, procurement and IT.
15. Before she joined the Commissioner's team, Helen spent 21 years as a lawyer in London specialising in public law, planning law and charities, working for the City of London Corporation and the Charity Commission. Since returning to Scotland in 2012, Helen has been a senior corporate services manager in a large charity and a trustee.

Head of Policy and Information (vacancy – postholder due in place from 01/02/2022)

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Summary of changes to document				
Date	Action by <i>(initials)</i>	Version updated <i>(e.g. v01.25-36)</i>	New version number <i>(e.g. v01.27, or 02.03)</i>	Brief description <i>(e.g. updated paras 1-8, updated HOPI to HOCS, reviewed whole section on PI test, whole document updated, corrected typos, reformatted to new branding)</i>
20/07/16	JAW	01.00	01.02	New document created / DCS updated
20/07/16	KB	01.02	01.03	DCS updated
20/07/16	KB	01.03	01.04	Amend document class, document published
05/09/16	DL	01.04	01.07	Photographs added and hyperlink to RA's bio amended.
06/09/16	KB	01.07	01.08	DCS updated, published on website
01/05/17	SH	01.08	01.09	Amendments proposed to reflect appointment of HG-S and MK as Acting SIC
10/10/17	SH	01.09	01.10	Amendments proposed to reflect appointment of DF
13/03/18	LB	01.10	01.11	Document updated for publication
19/03/18	HGS	01.11	01.12	Updated HG-S name details, approved for publication and updated DCS.
20/03/18	LB	01.12	01.13	DCS updated and document published
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16/01/20	HGS	01.14	01.15	Approved deletion of previous HOPI details and updated DCS
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03/06/20	HGS	01.17	01.19	Changes to HOPI bio approved by HOCS and DCS updated
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12/06/20	BOW	01.20	01.21	Opened in edit mode in error
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30/08/21	EMG	01.22	01.23	Updating Commissioner's biography
09/09/21	HGS	01.23	01.24	Approved Commissioner's updated biography and updated DCS.
23/09/21	BOW	01.24	01.25	DCS updated, published on website
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