



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
 - Sarah Hutchison, Head of Policy and Information
 - Helen Gardner-Swift, Head of Corporate Services

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. 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

7. Margaret has been Head of Enforcement since she joined the Scottish Information Commissioner in 2003.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.



Sarah Hutchison, Head of Policy and Information

12. Sarah has been Head of Policy and Information since she joined the Scottish Information Commissioner in 2003.
13. Her role includes strategic responsibility for improving freedom of information FOI practice in public authorities; promoting FOI rights to the public; influencing and supporting cultural change; developing knowledge, expertise and relationships.
14. Sarah's previous career includes teaching children with learning difficulties, a formative spell with Oxfam in the UK, leading equality policy in Fife Council and co-ordinating the Fife Community Plan. She holds an MA from the University of St Andrews and an MBA from Heriot Watt University.

Helen Gardner-Swift, Head of Corporate Services

15. Helen has been Head of Corporate Services since she joined the Scottish Information Commissioner in April 2017.

16. 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.
17. 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.

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