



9 May 2021

Appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

The Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform, Mairi McAllan MSP, today announced the appointment of Sarah Masterton, Professor Sarah Gurr and Elizabeth Trevor to the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Appointments

Sarah Masterton is Vice President, Education at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania. She was previously Head of Education for the Royal Horticultural Society and a Member of the Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Group and Vice Chair of the Education and Employment Group working with industry and DEFRA.

Professor Sarah Gurr holds the Chair in Food Security at Exeter University. She was post-doctoral Fellow at St Andrews University; a Royal Society University Research Fellow; Lecturer, Reader and Professor at Oxford University, and Fellow of Somerville College. At Oxford, she held a Leverhulme Trust Royal Society Senior Research and a NESTA Fellowship. She was also a Curator of the Oxford Botanic Garden for 20 years and the first woman President of The British Society of Plant Pathology. She was recently appointed as an advisor to the Scottish Government on Plant Health (RESAS) and as a member of Plant Health Scotland (James Hutton Institute).

Elizabeth Trevor has worked as a freelance consultant since 2011 specialising in business development and cross sector partnerships. Liz served as a Non-Executive Director for Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Winchester Business Improvement District and Action Hampshire before moving to Scotland and is now a member of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce. Prior to 2011, Liz worked in the UK airports sector in senior leadership roles working for BAA Airports and Global Infrastructure Partners-Gatwick.

The appointments are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

Length of Term, Remuneration and Time Commitment

The appointments are for four years. Sarah Masterton was appointed from 1 May 2021 until 30 April 2025 with Professor Sarah Gurr and Elizabeth Trevor being appointed from 16 September 2021 until 15 September 2025.

Members of the Board of Trustees commit to around ten days per year. Trustee roles are unremunerated.

Other Ministerial Appointments

Sarah Masterton, Professor Sarah Gurr and Elizabeth Trevor 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.

Sarah Masterton, Professor Sarah Gurr and Elizabeth Trevor have had no political activity within the last five years.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

The RBGE's mission is "to explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future". We contribute significantly to the Scottish Government's National outcomes, not only through protecting and enhancing our environment, but also in the fields of economic development, education and skills development, social inclusion and international cooperation. As we begin our next 350 years our science and research remain resolutely focused on the global biodiversity crisis and the climate emergency.

The challenges of the last year, due in large part to humankind's rapacious and unrelenting inroads into the natural world, have highlighted our awareness of interdependencies: the interdependence of human and environmental health, and the interdependence of social justice and sustainable development.