

Members Appointed to Scottish Fiscal Commission Board

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay, today announced the appointment of David Wilson and Alasdair Smith as Members of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Board.

Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Lady Susan Rice said:

“This is an important step as we move towards taking on our statutory powers from 1 April, helping to enhance tax forecasting in Scotland especially as the range of devolved responsibilities grows.

“By appointing Alasdair Smith and David Wilson, the Scottish Parliament ensures the Commission continues to have the highest calibre individuals guiding its work of independent economic and tax forecasting.”

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay said:

“The Scottish Fiscal Commission has provided impartial and expert scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s forecasts since its establishment, and provided Parliament and the public with assurance on their integrity. As the Commission moves onto a new statutory basis from 1 April, with direct responsibility for independent economic and fiscal forecasts, I very much welcome the role of Parliament in considering and approving these appointments, which I believe will strengthen the Commission.”

MEMBER

David Wilson is the Executive Director of the International Public Policy Institute at Strathclyde University. David joined the University in August 2015 from the Scottish Government, where he held a number of senior posts, including Director of Business and Director of Energy and Climate Change. David has extensive experience working as a professional economist, including the forecasting and scrutiny of energy and transport projects. Alongside these skills, David brings policy and leadership expertise, covering communications and organisational development.

Alasdair Smith has been an inquiry chair at the Competition and Markets Authority since 2014, having been a Deputy Chair of the Competition Commission since 2012.

Alasdair was previously Professor of Economics at the University of Sussex and was Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1998 to 2007. He has been a member of pay review bodies covering the prison service, doctors and dentists, armed forces (chair), and senior salaries. He is currently a member of the Determinations Panel of the Pensions Regulator.

APPOINTMENT

Both appointments will run from 1 April 2017, with Professor Smith's appointment ending on 31 March 2021. David Wilson's appointment will end on 31 March 2022.

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

REMUNERATION

Both appointments are part-time and attract a remuneration of £331 per day with a time commitment of 78 days per year.

OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

Alasdair Smith is an Inquiry Chair of the Competitions and Markets Authority for which he receives remuneration of £127,582 per annum, for a time commitment of up to four days per week. Alasdair is also a Determinations Panel Member for The Pensions Regulator for which he receives remuneration of £692 per day, for a time commitment of 1 day per month.

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.

None of the new appointees upheld any political activity within the last five years.

BACKGROUND

Find out more about the [Scottish Fiscal Commission](#)