

The Role of the Court Intermediary

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Background

The Scottish Code of Good HE Governance (2017) states in its Supporting Guidelines that:

“The governing body is expected to appoint one of its lay members to serve as an intermediary for other members who might wish to raise concerns about the conduct of the governing body or the chair. Led by this lay member, the members of the governing body are expected to appraise the Chair’s performance at least annually, without the Chair present.”

Following an agreed process overseen by the Governance & Nominations Committee, **John Burt** was appointed to the role of Court intermediary.

The role as approved by Court is as follows:

Intermediary role

1. Role:

To serve as an intermediary for other Court members who might wish to raise concerns about the conduct of Court or effectiveness of the Chair; and

Annually, to lead Court’s appraisal of the Chair’s effectiveness based on the approved document ‘Chair of Court: Role and Responsibilities’ at part of a meeting of Court without the Chair present.

2. Personal Characteristics of appointed intermediary:

Relates well to other members
Sets a good example
Works constructively
Strikes the right note of challenge where necessary

3. Term of Appointment:

The term of appointment will be two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two years subject to Court approval. The maximum term of appointment will be four years.

Appointment or removal from the role is a decision reserved for Court.

April 2014 (revised 2017)

Version Control Table

Version	Purpose / Changes	Author	Date
1.0	Approved by Court	University Secretary	April 2014
1.1	Updated to take account of revised governance code	University Secretary	15 March 2013