



Abertay
University

The Role of the Court Intermediary

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.”*

The appointment is made following an agreed process overseen by the Governance and Nominations Committee and with nominations sought from all members of Court.

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 attributes:

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, or until the end of the Intermediary’s term on Court, subject to Court approval. The maximum term of appointment will be four years.

Approved by Court April 2014

Revised December 2022, subject to confirmation by Court, February 2023