

Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018: Report on progress

Introduction

The Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 sets a Gender Representation Objective (GRO) for the boards of listed Scottish public authorities that 50% of the board's non-executive members are women, and requires appointing persons and public authorities to take steps towards achieving the GRO.

Boards subject to the Act include those at higher education institutions, which includes Abertay University.

This report relates to the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026.

Report

- During this period, one vacancy arose for non-executive (independent) member¹ of Abertay University's governing body, Court. Court has fourteen non-executive (independent) members.
- One competition was run to fill the position of Chair of Court. In the competition, five applications were received for the position. Of the five applications, 80% were from women. The Appointments Committee was not satisfied that any of the interviewed applicants sufficiently met the criteria to proceed to the election stage.
- As at 31 July 2026, the gender balance amongst lay members was 46% female and 54% male. From 1 August 2026, the gender balance amongst lay members is 42% female and 58% male, as we will hold two vacancies for non-executive members.
- As at 31 July 2026, the overall balance between genders amongst all Court members was 45% female and 55% male, which represents a change from 31 July 2025, when the overall gender balance was 50% female and 50% male. From 1 August 2026, the overall gender balance amongst all Court members remains unchanged at 45% female and 55% male.

Report by Secretary to Court

21 August 2026

¹ Excludes executive member and other staff and student nominees/elected members.