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| **News** |  |
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| 10 November 2020 |  |

**Members Reappointed to Children’s Hearings Scotland**

The Minister for Children & Young People, Maree Todd MSP, today announced the reappointments of Henry Robson and Barbara Neil as Members of the Board of Children’s Hearings Scotland.

**MEMBERS**

**Henry Robson** previously held senior management positions at the Law Society of Scotland and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. He has experience of organisational transformation, governance, performance improvement and financial management. He was also a Vice Chair and Chair of Audit at ARK Housing Association, providing care services and homes for vulnerable adults.

**Barbara Neil** is passionate about young people's rights and she has experience as a residential worker within the care system. Having spent a number of years in care herself, she wants Children's Hearings Scotland to be the best system it possibly can be and she intends to contribute to conversations that facilitate young people having their voice heard and included in every decision made about their lives. Overall, she brings a perspective as a child in care, experience being a panel member, a residential worker, a parent and someone who will advocate for all young people to ensure they experience a safe, happy childhood.

**APPOINTMENT**

The reappointments will be for four years. Henry Robson will run from 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2025, Barbara Neil will run from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2025.

The reappointments are regulated by the **Ethical Standards Commissioner.**

**REMUNERATION**

The reappointments are part-time and attract a remuneration of £4,397.76 per annum on a pro rata basis for a time commitment up to 2 days per month.

**OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Henry Robson and Barbara Neil 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.

Henry Robson and Barbara Neil have had no political activity within the last five years.

**BACKGROUND**

Children’s Hearings Scotland is one of a number of dedicated organisations that work as part of the children’s hearings system. This care and justice system is unique to Scotland and exists to protect the safety and wellbeing of infants, children and young people nationally. The system is made up of lots of partners who each have a different role. Children’s Hearings Scotland’s role is to ensure children's hearings take place by having three skilled and trained Panel Members on every hearing. They provide legal and practice advice to Panel Members but they are independent decision makers.