

1 July 2021

Chair and Members Appointed to the Consumer Scotland Board

The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth, Mr Arthur, today announced the appointment of David Wilson as Chair and Nick Martin, Angela Morgan and James Walker as Members of the Consumer Scotland Board.

CHAIR

David Wilson is a former senior government official with extensive experience of a range of public policy issues. Most recently, he was Programme Director for the initial phase of the creation of the Scottish National Investment Bank. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of the International Public Policy Institute at the University of Strathclyde and a Commissioner on the Scottish Fiscal Commission, the public body tasked with forecasting Scottish GDP and likely revenues from the devolved taxes in Scotland. During his earlier period in the Scottish Government, David held Director level roles on Communications, Energy and Climate Change and Business. His early career was as an economist, with a focus on economic regulation, including a period as Deputy Director General for Scotland at the Office for Electricity Regulation.

MEMBERS

Nick Martin brings strong commercial experience in strategic planning, finance and governance, having worked across the private, public and third sectors. Nick is currently a non-executive board member at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, where he chairs the audit & risk committee. He is also a trustee of GEM Workspaces Ltd, a not-for-profit provider of industrial and office accommodation in Glasgow. Nick is a non-executive director of Edinburgh-based online retailer, Beer52 Ltd and an independent member of the audit & risk committee at Scottish Canals. He was previously Head of Corporate Development at the global engineering company, the Weir Group PLC, one of Scotland's largest enterprises.

Angela Morgan is a professionally qualified Social Worker and has spent her career in the third sector with a focus on organisations (SAMH, Families Outside, Includem) working with people who are more disadvantaged in health, social and economic terms by poverty and inequality. She is committed to the principle that solutions to problems can only be developed and sustained through listening to and valuing the voice of the people experiencing the problem. That principle underpinned her approach to Chairing the Scottish Governments review of the implementation of Additional Support for Learning Legislation 2019/20. As a leader in her organisation

and in board roles, Angela has experience in the impact of good governance with a particular interest in the measurement of organisational impact on people's lives.

James Walker is a founder of Resolver.co.uk, the largest independent consumer resolution service. He grew the service to help resolve over 18 million disputes per year. James is a winner of Social Entrepreneur of the Year and has since founded a new business, JamDoughnut, to help reward loyalty. He co-founded Collaboration Network to help businesses deliver better customer service and support colleagues. James has more recently directly engaged with consumer service, Rightly, to grow it to become the leading consumer data management service in the UK. Additionally, James is a Non-Executive for the Dispute Resolution Ombudsman and Consumer expert to the Office of Rail and Road. His continual focus has been to help drive better outcomes for consumers through the effective use of data, by engaging businesses and by driving innovation.

APPOINTMENT

The appointments will be for three years and will run from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.

The appointments are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

REMUNERATION

The appointments are part-time. The Chair receives a remuneration of £306 per day for a time commitment of 50 days per year. Board Members receive a remuneration of £225 per day for a time commitment of 24 days per year.

OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

Nick Martin is a Non-Executive Director of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, for which he receives remuneration of £290 per day, for a time commitment of three days per month.

David Wilson, Angela Morgan and James Walker do not hold any other public 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.

Angela Morgan is a Member and Treasurer of the Scottish Green Party Stirling and Clackmannanshire Branch

David Wilson, Nick Martin and James Walker have had no political activity in the last five years.

BACKGROUND

Established by the Consumer (Scotland) Act 2020, Consumer Scotland will have the general function of providing consumer advocacy and advice with a view to:

- reducing harm to consumers in Scotland
- increasing confidence among consumers in Scotland in dealing with businesses that supply goods and services to consumers
- increasing the extent to which consumer matters are taken into account by public authorities in Scotland
- promoting
 - sustainable consumption of natural resources, and
 - other environmentally sustainable practices in relation to the acquisition, use and disposal of goods by consumers in Scotland
- otherwise advancing inclusion, fairness, prosperity and other aspects of wellbeing in Scotland.

Consumer Scotland will also work with existing consumer organisations, conducting investigations into the most serious issues of consumer harm in Scotland.