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| **News** |  |
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7 June 2021

**Reappointment of Independent Members of the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board**

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, Mairi Gougeon MSP, today announced the reappointment of John Connelly and Denise Penny as Independent Members of the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board.

**Reappointments**

John Connelly is an Associate Director for Service Transformation and Redesign, working within NHS Scotland, having held a number of senior HR and national programme roles over the last 19 years. In addition, he has worked at a senior level with a large multi-national manufacturing private sector organisation across Finance and HR functions and has developed effective relationships while working in partnership with trade unions and management.

Denise Penny works as a lecturer in Public Health and Health Promotion and has previously led, in partnership with other agencies, initiatives to improve population health. Having lived and worked in a remote and rural area, she has a thorough understanding of the issues affecting those working in the agricultural sector.

The reappointments are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

**Length of Term, Remuneration and Time Commitment**

Mr Connelly and Ms Penny have been reappointed for of four years from 1 May 2021. Independent Members of the Board receive £160.79 per day for a time commitment of around seven days per year.

**Other Ministerial Appointments**

Mr Connelly and Ms Penny 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.

Mr Connelly and Ms Penny have had no political activity within the last five years.

**Scottish Agricultural Wages Board**

The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body set up under the Agricultural Wages (Scotland) Act 1949. Its purpose is to make statutory Orders fixing minimum wage rates, holiday entitlement and other terms and conditions of service for workers employed in agriculture in Scotland. The Board’s Orders are legally enforceable and the Scottish Government Rural Directorate has a duty to investigate complaints about non-compliance. It also carries out random test inspections on agricultural holdings to ensure compliance and pursues recovery of arrears on behalf of workers.