

15th July 2020

Members Reappointed to Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

The Minister for Children & Young People, Maree Todd MSP, today announced the reappointments of Dr Martin Toye and Suzanne Vestri as Members of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

MEMBERS

Dr Martin Toye is a Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. Before undertaking a PhD in Psychology he trained as a Teacher and served as a chairing member of the Children's Panel. Martin has worked in three Local Authorities and three Scottish Universities. He was chief investigator on a National Research Ethics Service registered project as part of his PhD and held honorary contracts with two NHS Health Boards. He is an elected member of the Developmental Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society.

Suzanne Vestri has spent over thirty years working within and for Scotland's voluntary sector. Since leaving "See Me" in 2013, she has run Koru Consulting, specialising in organisational support and training in the fields of governance, social marketing and widening participation. In her spare time she is a pedigree livestock breeder and Community First Responder. She joined SCRA after many years as a Children's Panel member and, as someone who is care-experienced, is committed to Better Hearings and SCRA's role as a corporate parent.

APPOINTMENT

The reappointments will be for four years. Martin Toye will run from 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2024 and Suzanne Vestri will run from 1st October 2020 until 30th September 2024.

The reappointments are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

REMUNERATION

The reappointments are part-time and attract a remuneration of £3,208.39 per annum per annum on a pro rata basis for a time commitment up to 1.5 days per month.

OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

Dr Martin Toye and Suzanne Vestri 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.

Dr Martin Toye and Suzanne Vestri have had no political activity within the last five years.

BACKGROUND

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is a national body focused on children and young people most at risk. SCRA was formed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and became fully operational on 1st April 1996. Their main responsibilities as set out in the Act are:

- To facilitate the work of Children's Reporters,
- To deploy and manage staff to carry out that work,
- To provide suitable accommodation for Children's Hearings.

The Children's Hearings System provides the operational setting in which SCRA and partner agencies work. Their aim is to provide a safety net for vulnerable children and young people, and deliver tailored solutions which meet the needs of the individuals involved, while helping to build stronger families and safer communities.