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| **News** |  |
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| 16 March 2021 |  |

**Members Appointed to Scottish Legal Aid Board**

The Minister for Community Safety, Ash Denham, has today announced the appointment of Gerry Bann and Brigid Whoriskey as Members of the Scottish Legal Aid Board

**MEMBERS**

**Gerry Bann** is a solicitor and partner in leading Scottish law firm, Adams Whyte. Since 1992, Gerry has specialised in the field of Criminal Law and has extensive experience in the operation of the criminal courts and the wider criminal justice system. A former Dean of the Faculty of West Lothian Solicitors, Gerry has previously served as a Board Member of the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission and as a Board Member of Community Justice Scotland.

**Brigid Whoriskey** is a non-executive director, business adviser and executive coach with considerable breadth of experience working across public, private and third sectors. She is an experienced Non-Executive Director and currently is Vice Chair of Causeway (a government supported membership organisation that facilitates business connections between Scotland and Ireland) and a Trustee of the international humanitarian charity Tong-Len UK. Her corporate career included over 20 years in leadership roles in Financial Services including Head of Research and Innovation at Royal Bank of Scotland, and Marketing Director at Lloyds. Brigid brings particular expertise in strategy, digital, transformation and leadership. She is known as a natural collaborator and communicator and is passionate about making a difference to individuals, organisations and society.

**APPOINTMENT**

These appointments will be for three years and will run from 1 April 2021 until

31 March 2024.

This appointment is regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

**REMUNERATION**

This appointment is part-time and attracts a remuneration of £236.55 per day for a time commitment of 3.5 days per month.

**OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mr Bann and Ms Whoriskey do not hold any other ministerial 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.

Mr Bann and Ms Whoriskey have had no political activity within the last five years.

**BACKGROUND**

The Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) was set up in 1987 to manage legal aid in Scotland and is a non-departmental public body responsible to the Scottish Government. Legal aid allows people who would otherwise not be able to afford it, to get help for their legal problems.

The Scottish Legal Aid Board’s work is overseen by Board Members, who are appointed by Scottish Ministers. The number of Members can vary from 11 to 15. To give a balanced range of knowledge and experience, they include people with backgrounds in business, the advice sector and the wider community as well as solicitors and advocates and a person with knowledge of court procedure and practice.