Scottish Commission for Public Audit
Appointment to Audit Scotland's Board

The SCPA has appointed Mr Ronnie Cleland as the Chair of Audit Scotland. Mr Cleland has extensive experience in the public sector. Since 1992 he has served on a number of NHS trusts and boards and currently sits on the board of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. He is also a non-executive director with Odgers and Berndtson, a search and selection consultancy, and is a Member of the Court of the University of Strathclyde and a non-executive adviser to the Scottish Football Association. Mr Cleland has been a non-executive member of the Audit Scotland board since September 2008.

Background

Revised governance arrangements brought forward in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 provide that membership of Audit Scotland is the Auditor General for Scotland, the Chairman of the Accounts Commission and 3 other members appointed by the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA). Previously the 3 other members were appointed jointly by the Auditor General and the Chairman of the Accounts Commission.

The SCPA sets the non-executive members’ terms and conditions of appointment

Audit Scotland is a body corporate. Its role is to:

• Provide a range of audit services to and on behalf of the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland
• Examine how public bodies in Scotland spend public funds;
• Make sure they manage their finances to the highest standards; and
• Make sure they achieve value for money.

Audit Scotland must, for each financial year, prepare proposals for its use of resources and expenditure and send the proposals to the Scottish Commission for Public Audit which examines the proposals and reports to the Parliament on them.

Chair’s role

• Lead and guide the board and steer Audit Scotland as a corporate body;
• Oversee the systems of governance and internal controls and ensure that they are consistent with best practice;
• Lead, motivate and work closely with the other board members and staff to set the strategic direction of the organisation;
• Monitor delivery of the strategy;
• Support the Accountable Officer in the exercise of his functions including submitting jointly with him, Audit Scotland’s strategy and resource bid to the Scottish Commission for Public Audit; and
• Evaluate the two non-executive members.

Other board members
The SCPA has also recently appointed Katharine Bryan as a member of Audit Scotland.

A graduate of Durham and Aston universities, Katharine’s career has spanned both the water industry and environment sectors, starting with Severn Trent Water Authority and on privatisation, taking senior management roles in the National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency in the Midlands and South West England. After working as Chief Executive of North of Scotland Water, she moved to Northern Ireland as CE of Water Service to transform this Civil Service agency into a fully regulated government owned company, Northern Ireland Water. Her non-executive experience has included chairmanship of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and until January this year she was a Core Commissioner with the Infrastructure Planning Commission. In addition to her appointment to Audit Scotland, she is a non-executive director and member of the audit committee of Defence Estates (MoD) and will continue as a Board member of the newly created Defence Infrastructure Organisation.