

IMPACT REPORT 2023





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INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Chambers of Commerce Network plays an integral role to represent and support local businesses.

By sitting at the heart of local communities, we enable thousands of companies to grow and thrive. We are responsive to business needs, reflecting issues and priorities to local, national and international decision makers.

With our wide-reaching local Chamber Network across Scotland, as well as our fast-growing global network, we continue to provide practical advice and support to Scottish companies through unrivalled expert leadership events, business-to-business connections, mentoring, business support services and international trade support.

Our powerful Scottish Network, leads the charge to support our members and improve economic conditions in our communities. From increasing opportunities for Scottish businesses to trade internationally to championing access to a talented workforce, to preparing and understanding the challenges and opportunities in an evolving global marketplace. There is no doubt in my mind, both as a businessman and President of Scottish Chambers of Commerce, that the need for a strong, credible and robust Chamber Network has never been greater.

Here at SCC, we have not been shy to raise the issues that matter the most to our business communities to decision makers in Holyrood and Westminster. We are making the most of our seats at the top tables to advance the agenda of growth and job creation, despite the challenging political landscape.

There is too much to recount in a short foreword so let me end with a thank you to our Network. The successes highlighted in this Impact Report are down to an exceptionally talented pool of individuals; from our SCC Executive Team led by our formidable Chief Executive Liz Cameron, to the SCC Board of Directors, to our outstanding and unrivalled local Chamber Network, and many volunteer business people providing us with expertise and knowledge.

I am thankful to you all for your endless creativity and boundless enthusiasm to grasp the opportunities that lie ahead. As a Network, we have achieved much over the past twelve months and I look forward to raising the bar of success as we move into a critical year for Scottish business.



Stephen Leckie

President
Scottish Chambers of Commerce

YEAR IN REVIEW



Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the Accredited Scottish Chamber Network continues to serve as the leading voice and champion for Scottish businesses, locally, nationally and globally.

In a time of political and economic uncertainty, the Chamber Network has been the consistent and credible voice for Scottish businesses. Our goal is clear: to strengthen and support the Scottish Chamber Network at all levels, enabling us to do what we do best, supporting businesses to grow Scotland's economy.

The strength of the Chamber Network in Scotland has never been more apparent. When our members needed us to stand up and represent them to the decisionmakers, we have not shied away.

We told the UK Government directly how rising energy costs were damaging business survivability; we successfully secured the Energy Bills Discount Scheme. We shared how skills shortages and the tight labour market prevented businesses to grow; we successfully secured additions to the Shortage Occupation List for multiple sectors including construction.

We have been vocal over multiple years that we wanted to see the relationship between business and government reset; we successfully secured the New Deal for Business platform led by the new First Minister. Whilst it's early days to see the results of this, your national Chamber is playing its part to shape and inform its implementation.

And finally, we have continued to focus on securing new trading opportunities for members, successfully winning millions of pounds worth of contracts for Scottish businesses through our International Trade Partnership initiative. I am also delighted we now have 13 local Chambers delivering international trade support, adding value to local business communities and increasing local Chamber capacity.

Looking forward, I am pleased to report that SCC continues to operate as a limited not-for-profit company. We are confident that SCC is a sustainable organisation and will continue to be so in the future. In the year ahead, we will be focusing on delivering SCC's refreshed strategy which will prioritise Business Support, Business Network and Business Commercial. These focused pillars will ensure SCC continues to deliver for the accredited Scottish Chamber Network.

On behalf of the SCC Executive Team, let me take this opportunity to thank you and your Chamber for your ongoing support, commitment and contributions to supporting SCC & the Network. It has been an extraordinary year and I commend all Chambers for their exceptional service to business communities across Scotland.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead as we grasp more opportunities for our members and grow Scotland's economy.

Dr Liz Cameron CBE

Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce



YEAR IN REVIEW

Growing Scotland's International Trade

The Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) Network is recognised as an internationally leading business-to-business network. With Chambers of Commerce in every country across the globe, we know what it takes to sell, attract investment and innovate to stay ahead of the competition. The global Chamber Network brand represents 45 million companies across 100 countries. Our powerful network identifies new business connections, provides market research, shares practical advice and identifies new market opportunities. Our network exists in every continent across the world, acting as an agile, trusted, and reliable partner for Scotland's and the world's business community.

SCC is a formal partner of the International Chambers of Commerce which provides us with access to global policy decisions which will impact on Scottish business at a strategic and operational level. In addition, we contribute to the UK Government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group also ensuring that we identify key opportunities and challenges for Scottish Business in any Free Trade Agreements, all of which would impact on our ability to grow imports, exports and investment in and out of Scotland.

100

Trade Missions delivered
in every continent

1000+

participating businesses

£142k+

Private Sector
Contribution

13

participating Chambers

£20 million +

Sales in Pipeline Generated from
Network Trade Missions

50

International Chamber-to-
Chamber Agreements

"FANTASTIC MISSION ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY FORTH VALLEY CHAMBER AND PARTNERS.

It's been a long-time dream for me to attend Tartan Week and it was a surreal experience, especially the big Parade down 6th Avenue. Attending Tartan Week opened up exposure of our range of luxury golf products to a newfound audience which would not otherwise have been possible. It's a long game and I hope through nurturing these new relationships manifests as new and long-term business. Being in New York and taking part in such a high-profile event brought great exposure to my business to a range of potential customers I would never have had the chance to meet. I received very encouraging comments about the business and products which is always valued."

~Mairead Hume, Harris Tweed Golf Collection



YEAR IN REVIEW

Growing Scotland's International Trade

The International Trade Partnership between the Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the Scottish Government, established in 2019, has helped develop a clearer method of working with the private sector which is aligned with the government's strategy to boost exports and helping to encourage hundreds of Scottish businesses to trade around the world. Continuing to align with the Scottish Government's A Trading Nation with a focus on delivering both inward and outward business to business trade missions, we have supported even more businesses in Scotland to export.

TOP 5 MARKETS:

USA

GERMANY

CANADA

UAE

POLAND

TOP 5 SECTORS:

21%

MANUFACTURING

20%

FOOD & DRINK

14%

INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY

10%

BUSINESS SERVICES

7%

ENGINEERING

"WE MANAGED TO GET VALUABLE CONNECTIONS AT THE TRADE MISSION TO ONTARIO."

Our main focus was to find partners rather than customers and we had a good chance to speak to CEOs and senior representatives from companies across different sectors including Digital Health, Technology, Education and Life Sciences. We can see a number of partnerships emerging and now need to focus on gaining more market knowledge. We find the Chamber of Commerce missions are very grounded, more so than missions run by other organisations as they are not all about the corporate connections. This means we often make back door connections in a roundabout way which turn out to be highly valuable in the long run."

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



From top left - right

- Dr Liz Cameron receives CBE from HM King Charles for services to business & trade
- Dr Liz Cameron CBE signs MoU with Turkey
- Dr Liz Cameron CBE signs MoU with Pakistan
- Stephen Leckie Keynote Speech at the Annual Scottish Business Address
- Dr Liz Cameron CBE attends Scottish Parliament evidence session
- Seona Shand with Anas Sarwar MSP and Daniel Johnson MSP at international trade roundtable



YEAR IN REVIEW

Growing Scotland's Businesses

SCC and the Network is recognised as an industry leader in providing private sector B2B support to Scottish businesses. As the operator of one of Scotland's largest peer-to-peer business mentoring support networks, with over 400 experienced business individuals in our National Mentor Pool, we work directly with hundreds of businesses each year.

Our experienced Business Mentors come from all sectors, geographies and business sizes and support in a voluntary capacity. SCC is currently delivering Business Mentoring with our partners UK Finance.

400

**VOLUNTARY
BUSINESS
MENTORS
REGISTERED**

94%

**OF BUSINESSES
INCREASED THEIR
TURNOVER IN THE
FIRST 12 MONTHS OF
MENTORING**

HUNDREDS OF NEW JOBS

**CREATED AS A
RESULT OF
MENTORING AND
B2B SUPPORT**



“Business Mentoring is about putting something back. Mentoring makes you think outside the box and in a world which is rapidly changing, we sometimes need someone with a different perspective to put us back on track and continue on our journey.”

Jeanette Forbes OBE, Chief Executive & Founder, PCL Group



YEAR IN REVIEW

Authoritative Business Research

Scottish Chambers of Commerce continues to represent and share the views of Chamber members to decision makers at Holyrood, Westminster and beyond.

5

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC
INDICATOR SURVEYS

1.8k

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES
THAT PARTICIPATED

300+

OVERALL MEDIA HITS

COVERED BY BBC, STV,
THE TIMES, THE HEARLD,
THE FT & MANY MORE.

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC INDICATOR: One way we do this is operating Scotland's longest-running business survey, which continues to set the news agenda, influencing business and economic policy at the highest levels of government.

Run in partnership with the Fraser of Allander Institute, we also work in close collaboration with British Chambers of Commerce by being members of the BCC's National Research Group.

The quarterly survey regularly engages with 350 Scottish businesses across five sectors; Construction, Financial & Business Services, Manufacturing, Retail, and Tourism.

QEI COVERAGE: Since the 2022 AGM, five QEI surveys have been published and each has received widespread coverage in national media. This has included: The Times, The Scotsman, The FT, The Daily Mail, The Telegraph, The BBC, The Herald, The Courier, The Press & Journal & STV among others.

POLICY INFLUENCE: The results of the QEI have directly influenced business support interventions including the Energy Support Package.

Our Scottish Business Advisory Group (SBAG)
brings together business leaders from
Scotland's key sectors to analyse and review
Scotland's economic performance.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Influencing & Engaging with Government

SCC is actively representing the views and needs of Chamber Network members at the highest levels to influence and shape business policy at a wide range of Standing Committees & Advisory Groups including:

- Taxation Advisory Group (Scotland)
- Strategic Trade Advisory Group (UK)
- Home Office National Advisory Group (UK)
- Scottish Apprenticeships Advisory Board
- Scottish Business Growth Group
- Scotland Office International Strategy Group
- New Deal for Business Group

HIGHLIGHTS: POLICY WINS

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Informing and influencing future trade agreements through UK government engagement for Switzerland and India. SCC has influenced FTAs in force- Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

ENERGY BILLS DISCOUNT SCHEME

The Energy Bills Discount Scheme runs for 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Energy and Trade Intensive Industries (ETII) discount provides a higher level of support to businesses and organisations in eligible sectors, which they can apply for.

NEW DEAL FOR BUSINESS GROUP

Highlights of SCC Wins & Key Recommendations

SCC called for more established channels for industry to share general feedback and sectoral intelligence with Government. These have both been included as recommendations in the final report.

SCC secured additional monitoring and reporting for government departments on business resilience, use of consistent set of metrics that can also be used in Business Regulatory Impact Assessments, including cashflow; risk of insolvency; confidence in meeting debts; and difficulty recruiting employees among others.

SCC has been successful in including a specific recommendation for Scottish Government to develop a process which looks at removing regulations, shifting the Government's focus away from simply introducing regulation. Other focus areas include impact assessments, costs and how regulations are developed.

SCC has been successful in including Non-Domestic Rates as a policy issue with a focus on making sure it is competitive for business and to keep all policy reforms under review. NDR and its competitiveness will also be included in the new Taxation Advisory Group chaired by the Deputy First Minister – SCC is a formal member of this new group.

SCC successfully secured the business rates appeals deadline extension helping more businesses appeal rateable values.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Influencing for Business

From Scotland to London to Geneva, SCC is influencing for the Scottish business community at the highest levels of economic policy and decision making



SCC IN GENEVA

SCC signed the 'Geneva Manifesto' with British Chambers of Commerce, unveiled at the 13th World Chambers Congress. The Manifesto is a powerful pledge by chambers of commerce to revitalise international trade with renewed commitment to multilateralism for peace and prosperity.

Signing the declaration commits the Scottish Chamber of Commerce to redoubling their efforts towards making a difference in the economy and building a modern system as a driving force for economic inclusion, global cooperation, and sustainable development.

"SIGNING THE LANDMARK GENEVA MANIFESTO IS A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR NETWORK'S VISION AND DEDICATION TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY."

Charandeep Singh BEM, Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce

LONDON BUSINESS VISIT

Scottish Chambers of Commerce hosted a successful International Business Week in London providing businesses in Scotland the chance to engage with senior Westminster politicians and city business leaders providing access to an unrivalled series of B2B meetings, briefings and events. The London Business Visit comprised of an evening reception with Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack MP, a series of roundtables at Scotland House, an evening with Santander rounded off with attending the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference. The result of SCC's London Business Week was providing Scottish business with untapped opportunities of getting into a wider global market.



"I LEFT THE SCC LONDON BUSINESS VISIT WITH AN INVALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ACROSS THE UK, AND THE SCOTTISH AND UK GOVERNMENT."

Fraser Grier, Scottish Business Network



YEAR IN REVIEW

Annual Scottish Business Address

SCC's flagship annual event continues to go from strength to strength, bringing together Scotland's biggest influencers and innovators from business, politics, media and civic Scotland. We are delighted that the event continues to attract influential and high profile business speakers and guests, reflecting on the strength of the Scottish Chamber Network and our unique place in Scotland.



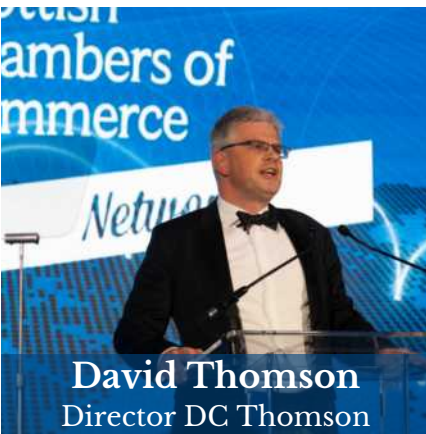
Dr Hina Khan

Executive Director, Space Scotland



Chris Ball

CEO ESO Sports



David Thomson

Director DC Thomson



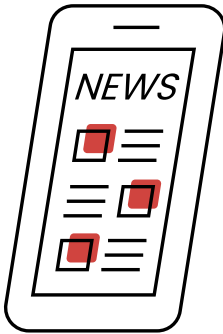
Lindsay McGranaghan

Vice President CGI

YEAR IN REVIEW

Brand & Communications

SCC continues to invest in its Communications output ensuring we are providing real-time updates to the Network, leading the economic agenda and sharing high-quality content about Scotland's business community.



SCC's **DAILY UPDATE** newsletter continues to act as an important source of communications to the business community with a growing subscription. The annual open rate is now 70,000.



The **Business Scotland Magazine** continues to perform exceptionally well providing a national platform to share Chamber Network and business success stories. Annually, the magazine has been downloaded 166k times and the website has hit 120k impressions.

166k

DOWNLOADS OF
SCC NETWORK
MAGAZINE

120k

PAGE
IMPRESSIONS
OF SCC WEBSITES

30k

SCC SOCIAL &
DIGITAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Stephen Leckie

President, SCC | Chairman & CEO, Crieff Hydro

Stephen Leckie BA CDir, is Chairman and Chief Executive of Crieff Hydro and the fifth generation of his family to run this hotel and estate since the doors opened on Scotland's maiden hydropathic establishment in 1868. The company is now the oldest trading registered company in Scotland.

Since taking the helm in 1994, Stephen has marshalled more than £60 million of investment to transform the property into a true leisure resort which competes on the international stage. The family has expanded and Crieff Hydro Limited now own or manage seven hotels, along with the operation of The Peel Café at Glentress Forest, Peebles. In addition, Taypark House in Dundee is an Associated Hotel.

Stephen is Chairman of Scottish Tourism Alliance, Board Member of Crieff Business Improvement District (BID) Steering Group and a Trustee of the Meikle and Paton Fund.

Stephen has received a number of industry awards including The Herald Scottish Family Business Award – Outstanding Contribution, Scottish Business Honours Entrepreneur of the Year Award and Courier Business Awards Entrepreneur of the Year.

Stephen was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Perth and Kinross in 2012 and Lord-Lieutenant in July 2019.

Dr Liz Cameron CBE

Director & CEO, SCC

Liz Cameron is recognised as one of the most influential, informed and authentic business leaders within Scotland's business community. Liz brings over 30 years' experience of operating small businesses and a variety of executive and non-executive roles in a range of sectors.

Liz represents the Scottish business community nationally contributing her expertise on a wide range of committees including the Scottish Government's New Deal for Business Group, the UK Government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group, Scotland Office Trade Advisory Group, and the Home Office National Advisory Committee.

On the world stage, Liz has expanded Scotland's profile internationally, successfully establishing a new Scottish Trade Office in China and building stronger economic relationships with likeminded business organisations in multiple countries around the globe.

She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the West of Scotland and a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to business and global trade. Liz has also been recognised as a Scottish Women of Influence by Business Insider, Scottish Woman of Inspiration by the Association of Scottish Businesswomen and a Business Influencer in advancing UK-India Trade Relations by India Inc.

Liz currently serves as a Director & Trustee on the Inverclyde Leisure Trust.



MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Bruno Berardelli

Chief Operating Officer, AMP Clean Energy

Bruno has over 20 years' experience in the rural economy and renewables. In 2003, Bruno set up HWEnergy, which became part of the AMP Clean Energy Group in 2017. AMP Clean Energy specialises in decentralised low carbon energy generation for UK businesses. Bruno is President of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Bruno is an alumni of the University of Glasgow.



Colin Loveday

Founder & Owner Predict Mobile

Colin Loveday is an entrepreneur and Non-Exec Director, with a blue chip corporate background at Nestlé, Sanyo & Nokia. Colin's entrepreneurial journey resulted in the founding of three, award winning mobile communications businesses all at different stages of growth including, "Good Call Mobile CIC" Scotland's first mobile comms social enterprise focused on digital inclusion and "Predict" the UK's first comparison platform for business mobile communications.

Colin has served as Chair and Non-Exec Director on a range of boards, most recently on the Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) Board where he advises on digital communications and is focused on creating collaborative opportunities internationally for the Chamber. Colin is currently working with the Scottish Government on its New Deal for Business, in the Partnerships sub group representing SCC. He has also represented Scottish business on the cross party group on Japan and a participant in the Kinross House conference on Cyber Security.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Claire Baird

CEO, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

Claire Baird was appointed as Chief Executive in September 2022. Claire has been involved in the Chamber Network for over twenty years with a range of roles. These have included Regional Lead (Ayrshire) for Developing the Young Workforce, a senior secondment to the Scottish Government's Directorate for Fair Work, Employability and Skills, and worked at the Scottish Chambers of Commerce in policy development. She is a passionate advocate for Ayrshire, and the role of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce Network across Scotland and internationally.

She is fully committed to representing the Scottish business community through influencing and developing the future strategy of SCC, Government(s) and other key partners and stakeholders.



Doug Smith

Consultant, CBRE Scotland

Doug Smith is a leading voice and expert on a range of areas including commercial property, economic development, inward investment and regeneration.

A qualified chartered surveyor, he currently serves as Consultant to CBRE, the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm. Previously, Doug served as Managing Director and Chairman of CBRE Scotland and head of the EMEA Corporate Capital Markets service line in London.

Doug holds various external appointments including Lay Member of University of Glasgow Estates Committee, member of Scottish Property Federation Commercial Real Estate Committee, member of the Bank of England Scottish Panel and an Honorary Professor in the Urban Institute at Heriot Watt University. In previous external roles he was Chair of Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company and a member of the Scottish Cities Taskforce.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Dr Hina Khan

Executive Director, Space Scotland

Dr Hina Khan has recently taken up the first ever Executive Director role at Space Scotland, a not-for-profit company formed through an industry-led group seeking to develop the space sector in Scotland.

As ED, Hina will pull together the sector, championing the unique end to end capability of space in Scotland, engaging directly with UK and Scottish Governments to enable growth of the sector and capture opportunities that can be overcome through effective use of the Scottish Space Ecosystem.

Hina has an extensive background in the space sector, with a PhD in Space Science from the University of Leicester followed by a 10yr research career in space science data analytics from NASA, ESA and UCL.



Jacqueline Dobson

President, Barrhead Travel

Jacqueline Dobson is the President of Barrhead Travel, one of the UK's largest travel agencies. With over two decades of experience within the travel industry, Jacqueline has been pivotal in shaping Barrhead Travel into a UK-wide success story.

Thanks to her proven track-record, ambition and innovative strategic decisions, Jacqueline's story of success is well-known and admired amongst industry peers and senior business executives. Jacqueline has been commended at a number of business and industry awards including Inspiring Woman of the Year at the Business Women Scotland awards and TTG's Contribution to Travel award, both recognising her steadfast leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Her grass-roots development from where she began to where she is now – as trainee to President of the UK's leading travel groups – is echoed in her passion for mentorship. She leads and inspires a new generation of future business leaders through a dedicated coaching and one-to-one mentoring programme.

Jacqueline also serves as President of the Scottish Passenger Agents Association (SPAA).

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Mary Ann Smith

Director, We Achieve Associates Ltd

Mary Ann is an experienced leader who provides consultancy and coaching to global enterprise and corporate sectors. With over 30 years of experience, she specialises in transforming £500k to £20m turnover businesses and is passionate about supporting small start-up businesses to embed solid growth foundations.

She is a Board Director with the Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce, leading business development and online support for SMEs. She is also committed to creating more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces with a focus on supporting the development of female talent and releasing opportunities for women to access executive and board-level roles.

Mary Ann advocates showing up as your true self. She believes that this level of authenticity is fundamental to business and life success but is often difficult to achieve. To support this, she created GENIUS Leadership®, which simplifies leadership development and one she embeds within her Executive coaching and leadership development roles.



Neil Amner

Director, Anderson Strathern

Neil Amner is a Director at Scottish law firm Anderson Strathern. He has been seconded to ScotRail Trains Limited as Interim General Counsel. From a background in commercial property work, Neil has developed a strong track record as one of Scotland's leading transport, environmental and parliamentary lawyers.

He was President of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce from January 2016 to January 2018. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport UK, a member of the European Aviation Law Association, a director and the company secretary of the Scottish Maritime Cluster and has previously acted as general counsel to the European Freight & Logistics Leaders Forum. Neil is a member of the Law Society of Scotland's Environmental Law and Maritime Law Committees.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Dr Poonam Gupta OBE

Chief Executive, PG Paper Company Ltd

Dr Poonam Gupta OBE is a leading UK entrepreneur and CEO of one of Scotland's most successful export businesses, PG Paper. Her portfolio of companies now has an annual turnover of circa \$100 million, operating in over 60 countries, with offices in India, the US, China, Sweden, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

With a career-long interest in strengthening and enabling greater collaboration between Scotland and India, Poonam led a successful Scottish Chambers Task Force to India in 2019. She has been recognised as one of the '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations' by India Inc Group. Poonam is currently Chair of the Manufacturing Sector Committee of the FICCI UK Council, the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India and is a UK Government Export Champion.

Poonam was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Glasgow Caledonian University in Summer 2023.



Rodney Ayre

Senior Department Production Manager, Mitsubishi Electric Air Conditioning Systems Europe Ltd

Rodney Ayre joined Mitsubishi Electric in 1998 and is the Senior Department Manager responsible for production activities on the 6 sites in West Lothian.

Previously he was a manager with British Rail working on the development of the Heathrow Express Rail link and a project engineer for the manufacturing of the freight rolling stock in the Channel Tunnel.

He is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), Past President of Scottish Engineering, former chair of the Japanese Business Council in Europe Group, a board member of West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, chair of Developing the Young Workforce (West Lothian) and member of the Strategic leadership Group for Manufacturing within the Scottish Government.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS 2023



Stewart Nicol

Scottish Business Leader (representing small/mid sized Chambers)
Stewart served as Chief Executive of Inverness Chamber of Commerce from 2006 to May 2023. Stewart remains active in several non-executive director positions and senior charity trustee roles.

Under Stewart's leadership, the Inverness Chamber increased membership numbers substantially by over 50% to record levels and increased the number of Chamber Executive Partners by twenty-fold. Stewart led the establishment of "Chamber International" service which provides businesses with exporting support, trade advice, documentation services and in-market connections.

Stewart has also delivered several successful private-public sector partnerships with agencies such as the Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Inverness College UHI.

Stewart's previous roles have included senior positions in the Energy sector including with SSE managing a budget of £12million and over 150 staff. Stewart also co-established a consultancy business focusing on transformational change, training and organisational development. Stewart is a member of Institute of Directors and Chartered Institute of Management.



Stuart Cresswell

Scotland Manager, Associated British Ports

Stuart Cresswell serves in a senior leadership role at Associated British Ports (ABP), the UK's largest port operating company. Stuart holds full operational and P&L responsibility for all of ABP's Scottish ports operations. During his time at ABP, Stuart has held senior roles in Scotland, North West, and Hull. ABP has received several business awards including Top Performing Business. In addition to his business portfolio, Stuart has remained committed to the growth and development of the local economy and has held several Non-Executive Director roles including President of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce. Stuart also served as Director of the Scottish Shipping Benevolent Association and Director of Ayr Renaissance.

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS





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The Ultimate Business Network



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