

## Dundee Fairness Commission - Members Biographies



### **Cllr Jimmy Black, Convener.**

Cllr Black began his career in welfare rights, became a Housing Campaign Worker for Shelter Scotland and led the PR teams in Citizens Advice Scotland, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Glasgow Housing Association. He has also been a freelance radio producer, working for BBC and others, and edited SCOLAG Legal Journal.

Elected to Dundee City Council in 2007, he has been Convener of Housing and Environmental Services and Convener of Tayside Police Joint Board. He formerly chaired the national Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group and is a member of the COSLA Community Well Being Executive.

### **Cllr Laurie Bidwell**

Laurie has represented the Ferry Ward on Dundee City Council since May 2007. He is Labour's education spokesperson and formerly senior lecturer in community and policy studies in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education at the University of Dundee.



He has been a member of the Child Poverty Action Group for 40 years and is also member of St Mary's Episcopal Church in Broughty Ferry.



### **Gerry McLaughlin, Chief Executive, NHS Health Scotland**

Mr McLaughlin was appointed Chief Executive of NHS Health Scotland in 2010. A social sciences graduate, he worked for 20 years as a local authority social work manager.

Following a period as Glasgow's principal child protection officer, he moved to the Royal National Institute for the Blind Scotland as Assistant Director in 1998, before joining the British Red Cross as Director in 2000 and taking his place on the senior management team. For six years until taking up his current role he was also a non executive member of the Board of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

**Drew Walker, Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside**

Dr Walker has been Director of Public Health in Tayside since 2000, prior to that holding a similar role in Ayrshire and Arran for nine years. He was the first Chair of the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN) and is Executive Director lead for NHS Tayside on the NHS response to welfare reform.



He has a long-standing interest in health improvement and tackling health inequalities and has published nationally on the significant challenges this agenda poses for the NHS in particular. In 2010 he led the development of an updated health inequalities strategy: “Communities in Control”.



**Satwat Rehman, One Parent Families Scotland**

Satwat is the Director of One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS). Before joining OPFS in January 2011 she worked for a local authority in London and developed integrated early years services delivered through a network of children’s centres.

She has worked in regeneration, employability and education in both the voluntary and statutory sectors and is a member of the Scottish Government’s Ministerial

Advisory Group on Child Poverty, the Commission for Childcare Reform and the Fairer Fife Commission.

**Elizabeth Kane, Community Representative**

After a career in the DHSS Elizabeth moved to Dundee Employment and Aftercare Project (DEAP) and while working there became Chair of the Employment & Training Group during the regeneration of Ardler.



In 1998 she started the first Community Jobshop there and as the project grew she became finance manager. She is a member of the Strathmartine Forum and Local Community Planning Partnership and has worked with the Poverty Alliance.

Elizabeth is a also Director of the Ardler Village Trust with responsibility for Employment & Training links and an Executive member of the Dundee Pensioners’ Forum.



**Mary Kinninmonth, Director, Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau**

Mary has been a manager in the advice sector for 25 years including 13 years in her current post of Director at Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau.

She is experienced in governance in the third sector having served on a number of management committees and Boards of Trustees including the Supervisory Committee of Discovery Credit Union and as a Trustee on the Board of the Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (Citizens Advice Scotland). She is Chair of its National Policy Forum and also its representative on the Commission on Local Tax Reform.

Mary is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews, having completed her degree in 2007 while continuing to work full-time. She also has a number of qualifications in management and leadership and is a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management.

**Erik Cramb, Dundee Pensioners Forum, British Polio Fellowship**

Former National Industrial Mission Organiser, Church of Scotland minister Erik is also a former chair of Church Action on Poverty. He served as Dundee's industrial chaplain and was Moderator of Dundee Presbytery in 2001. He is currently a member of Dundee Pensioners Forum.



**Eddie Smith, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland**

Chief Superintendent Smith, has been the Divisional Commander for Tayside since March 2014. He joined the former Strathclyde Police in 1986, serving in various roles.

He was the Divisional Commander of the South Lanarkshire before leading the team that introduced the new structure and the community based service approach for Police Scotland.

Chief Supt Smith is also a trained hostage/crisis negotiator, a public order Gold Commander and a firearms strategic Gold Commander. He is also a trainer on the Police Scotland Event Commanders course, specialising in the role of football match Commander.



**Alison Henderson, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce**

Alison is the founder and owner of marketing firm My Pinkie Promise and was appointed chief executive officer of Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce in October 2014 following roles as a director and vice president.

She has grown her own business in Dundee since 2009, after leaving a senior role in the marketing team at Alliance Trust and has extensive experience in marketing, events management, and leading teams to deliver successful projects.

Alison has a wide network of business contacts, and experience of working with stakeholders and partners to influence policy and business leaders.

**Denise McCaffery, Head Teacher, Sidlaw View Primary School**

After graduating from Dundee College of Education, Denise began her teaching career in Fife where she taught at a number of primary schools.

In February 1999 she took up the post as Assistant Head Teacher at Sidlaw View Primary in Dundee, a job she held for three years before becoming Head Teacher.

Denise supports and implements a number of initiatives aimed at improving the life chances, not just of our children and young people she teaches, but also of their families and the wider community.



She has been heavily involved with the citywide Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) implementation group, and is committed to reducing inequality.

**Colin McCashey, Independent Convener, Dundee Adult Support and Protection Committee**

Currently the Independent Convener of the Dundee Adult Support and Protection Committee Colin works closely with Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities are protected from harm.

Before taking up his role Mr McCashey was a Police Officer holding various roles including Police Commander in Dundee. He completed his Police Service in 2012 as Assistant Chief Constable responsible for Counter Terrorism in Scotland.



Mr McCashey has a particular interest in human rights and fairness, especially in respect of making things better, safer and free from harm for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

**Grant Ritchie, Principal Designate, Dundee and Angus College**

Grant was educated at Harris Academy, Dundee and graduated with an Honours Degree in History from Aberdeen University. After working in local government and freelance journalism he joined Dundee College in 1985, completing his FE teaching four years later. He also has a Post Graduate Qualification in Educational Leadership from the University of Leicester.



Grant began as a lecturer in communications, and, prior to becoming Depute Principal, was responsible for the growth of creative and cultural industries in Dundee College, including the development of the award winning Space Dance Centre. He has chaired national developments in qualifications and sits on the SQA's Advisory Council.

Currently leading a major national project, Creative Loop, to identify future skills for creative industries he was also responsible for the successful £49m redevelopment of the Gardyne Campus. Grant will take over as Principal of Dundee and Angus College in August 2015.



**Douglas Robertson, professor, University of Stirling.**

Professor Robertson teaches and researches sociology and housing at the University of Stirling's School of Applied Social Science and chairs the School's multi-disciplinary Children, Families & Relationships research group.

He has long standing interests in Scottish housing policy, including private renting and owner occupation and, in particular, housing renewal. In October 2009 he chaired the Scottish Government's Private Rented Sector Strategy Group, the recommendations of which informed two Private Rented Sector Acts, 2011 and 2014.

He has gone on to chair a group reviewing the Private Rented Sector tenancy regime and following this group's report, a consultation paper has been issued by Government seeking the public's views on their proposals, which should result in new legislation.





### **Ginny Lawson, Brooksbank Partnership**

Ginny left Linlathen High School in 1984 with no formal qualifications and nine years later when her son started school she attended a Government Scheme for women wishing to start or return to work hosted by APEX Scotland. After 16 weeks at Dundee College, Ginny got her first job as an administrator with APEX Scotland's Employment Unit.

Following redundancy she worked on a voluntary basis to establish an Anti Poverty Group and contributed to the city's first Anti Poverty Strategy. In 1997 she took up a post with Dundee Money Advice Project and worked with the local community of Mid Craigie and Linlathen to save Brooksbank Centre from closure.

She is now centre manager and under her stewardship the project won a Scottish Urban Regeneration Award for Best Practice for Working in Partnership in Scotland.

### **James Thomson, Dundee Youth Council**

James is a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament representing Dundee West and at the age of 20 has already clocked up more than 1000 hours of volunteering in various roles.

He is studying Business Studies at Abertay University and has a passion for working with young people. In 2013 he was awarded the Saltire Summit award for outstanding contribution to volunteering. He currently chairs the Dundee Youth Council.



### **Mike Arnott, Trades Union Council**

Mike is Secretary of Dundee Trades Union Council, as well as a member of the Scottish TUC General Council.

He is a former secretary of Dundee Resources Centre for the Unemployed, chair of Dundee Anti Poverty Forum and Rector's Assessor of Dundee University.

Mike, 52 currently works for Dundee City Council.