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The Fraser of Allander Institute 50th Anniversary Conference

Thursday 18th September - Friday 19th September 2025
Technology and Innovation Centre, University of Strathclyde

Meet our Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Mairi Spowage | Director, Fraser of Allander Institute

Mairi is the Director of the Fraser of Allander Institute and leads on the Institute's work with various partners, including those in business, the public and third sector. She is regularly asked to give evidence on economic and fiscal matters at Parliamentary Committees.

Previously, Mairi was the Deputy Chief Executive of the Scottish Fiscal Commission and the Head of National Accounts at the Scottish Government, and has over a decade of experience working in different areas of statistics and analysis.

Emma Congreve | Deputy Director, Fraser of Allander Institute

Emma is the Deputy Director of the Institute and leads the Institute's work on poverty, inequality and social policy. She is also the Co-Lead for the Scottish Health Equity Research Unit, an independent research unit, funded by the Health Foundation to provide insight, analysis, and scrutiny on the socio-economic factors driving health inequalities in Scotland.

Emma was previously a senior economist at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and an economic adviser within the Scottish Government. Emma is an expert in economic policy relating to low income households.



Michael Marra MSP | Deputy Convenor of the Finance and Public Administration Committee

Michael James Marra is a Scottish Labour politician serving as the MSP for the North East Scotland region since May 2021. Michael is the deputy convenor of the Finance and Public Administration Committee and has previously served on the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

Professor Sir John Curtice | University of Strathclyde

Sir John Curtice is Senior Research Fellow at NatCen, Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University, and Chief Commentator on the What UK Thinks: EU and What Scotland Thinks websites.

He has been a regular contributor to the annual British Social Attitudes report since 1986 and an editor since 1994. He has also been a Co-Director of the Scottish Social Attitudes survey since its foundation in 1999.



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Angela Mitchell | Practise Senior Partner for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Deloitte

Angela is Deloitte's Senior Partner for Scotland & Northern Ireland. She leads Deloitte's business and people across Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Belfast, working with clients across all sectors including Financial Services and Energy.

Angela also leads our Government and Public Services work in Scotland, which she has partnered for the last 15 years, and has over 28 years experience in public sector consulting ranging from strategy and business cases, through operating model design and transformation programme implementation including digital delivery and change management. Angela is Strathclyde alumna has been involved with the Fraser of Allander for five years.

Marc Crothall | Chief Executive, Scottish Tourism Alliance

Marc Crothall MBE is the Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, the overarching trade body for Scotland's tourism and hospitality industry. He also co-chairs with Minister Richard Lochhead, the Tourism and Hospitality ILG which acts as both the guardian and strategic think tank for Scotland's national tourism strategy, Scotland Outlook 2030. Prior to taking up his role at the STA 13yrs ago he spent 30+ years in the front line managing a variety of hi profile tourism and leisure business' in the UK and abroad. He previously co-chaired the National Food Tourism Leadership Board and was Scotland's representative on the UK Tourism Industry Council.



Charandeep Singh | Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce

Charandeep Singh is the Deputy Chief Executive at the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, Scotland's largest business network. Charandeep received a British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Years Honours List 2021 and was awarded the inaugural Pride of Scotland Award for Services to Charity. He was named one of the most influential PR & communications professionals in the world on the Annual PROPEL 100 List. Previously, Charandeep was awarded Scottish Professional of the Year 2019/20 at the Scottish Asian Business Awards and was recognised by industry-leading publication, PR Week UK, in its 30 Under 30 List.



Jack Norquoy | Director of Public Affairs and Communications, Scottish Renewables

Jack Norquoy is currently the Public Affairs Manager at Scottish Renewables. Prior to this role, Jack worked as a Communications and Research Assistant at The Scottish Parliament for the Deputy Presiding Officer. Jack also served as a Parliamentary Intern in the offices of Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP in both the House of Commons and Barony Mills. Additionally, Jack has experience as a Brand Ambassador, Tour Guide, and Board Trustee at various organizations. Jack's educational background includes a Master of Arts in History and International Relations from the University of Aberdeen.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Chris Creegan | Public Policy Consultant

Chris Creegan has spent his career in the public and third sectors. He has worked in policy, research, and communications, and held a number of senior leadership roles. He was Director of Corporate Affairs and Deputy Director of Qualitative Research at the National Centre for Social Research between 2006 and 2012, Chief Executive of the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability between 2013 and 2019, and Associate Director at the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland between 2020 and 2022.

Stephen Boyle | Auditor General for Scotland

Stephen Boyle started his term as Auditor General in July 2020, and he is also the accountable officer for Audit Scotland.

He is committed to public services that improve the lives of Scotland's people. He has over 20 years' experience in audit, governance and financial management, and is a qualified accountant and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.



Professor Kat Smith | University of Strathclyde

Kat Smith is a Professor of Public Health Policy at the University of Strathclyde, where she co-leads the Centre for Health Policy and the Scottish Health Equity Research Unit (SHERU). With a background in geography and social policy, she is a strong advocate of qualitative and mixed methods research, especially where this facilitates dialogue across research, policy and publics. She also leads a five-year research programme on the Health-Justice Nexus in Scotland, and contributes to the ESRC Centre for Lifecourse Health Equity, the UKRI THRIVING Food Futures Hub, and the UKRI Population Health Network.

David Finch | The Health Foundation

David joined the Health Foundation in May 2018 and currently leads a programme of work developing policy and analysis related to the wider determinants of health. His work focuses on the role that social and economic policy and business can play in improving health, and understanding the influence that health has on social and economic outcomes of people and places.

Previously David worked for the Resolution Foundation as a Senior Fellow working on a range of issues including tax and benefit policy with a focus on Universal Credit, calculating the Living Wage, demographics, pensions and pay progression.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Peter McMahon | Journalist

Peter MacMahon is a political commentator, writer and consultant, who has been at the heart of reporting on Scottish and UK politics. He is a member of the Ofcom Content Board for Scotland, and was previously Political Editor on ITV Border, presenting their flagship politics programme Representing Border.



Douglas Fraser | Business and Economy Editor, BBC

Douglas is BBC Scotland's business and economy editor. He joined the BBC when the financial crisis struck in 2008. His beat includes the offshore oil and renewable energy sectors and he takes a mostly professional interest in whisky. He previously worked for The Herald and The Scotsman, among other newspapers. Douglas has covered politics from the Holyrood parliament, education and the arts.



Gina Davidson | Scotland Political Editor, LBC

Gina Davidson is an award-winning journalist and the Scotland Political Editor for LBC, part of the Global group. She was previously Deputy Political Editor of The Scotsman. She is based in Holyrood and covers all the political machinations of the day for LBC and LBC News, as well as Heart Scotland and other Global brands. She also writes for the LBC app and website. She is currently co-chair of the Scottish Parliamentary Journalist's Association.



Chris Musson | Associate Editor, The Scottish Sun

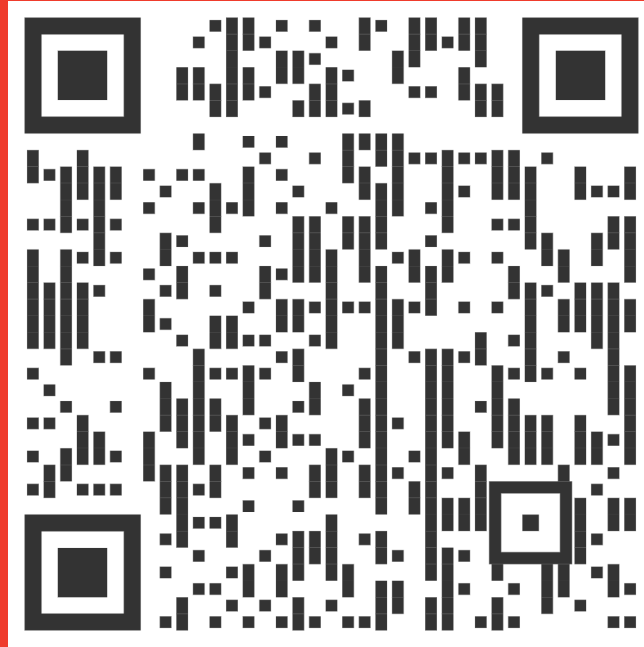
Chris Musson is Associate Editor (Politics) at The Scottish Sun and has been with the title since 2012 after working for several other national and regional newspapers. He was initially The Scottish Sun's Home Affairs Editor and then Scottish Political Editor from 2017. Chris was named as Reporter of the Year, Political Journalist of the Year and overall Journalist of the Year at the 2021 Scottish Press Awards.





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