

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning
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Professor Sir Pete Downes
Convenor, Universities Scotland

By email to:
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17 September 2015

Dear Professor Downes

We are writing to advise you of the Government's plans for the recruitment of a new Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland.

As you are aware, further to the departure of the former CSA, Professor Muffy Calder, the post was externally advertised but, following a full and open recruitment process, we were disappointed we were not able to appoint anyone to the role. Interim arrangements are in place and Scottish Ministers continue to draw upon a range of science advice and expertise across all policy areas including, but not confined to, the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Scientist (Health), the Chief Scientific Adviser (Rural Affairs, Food and Environment), and the Chief Veterinary Officer.

The CSA for Scotland is a key role within the Scottish Government enabling the Government to access high quality scientific advice and expertise. We have therefore asked officials to undertake a short review of the requirements of the role in dialogue with key stakeholders within the scientific community to ensure it fits that brief and will attract a broad field ahead of re-advertising the post towards the end of this year. We are keen that our universities and learned societies are engaged in this exercise and officials will be in touch over the coming few weeks to take forward these discussions.

At the same time the Scottish Government will be proceeding to recruit new members for the Scottish Science Advisory Council (SSAC), informed by a recent light-touch review of the current SSAC model. This has included engaging with stakeholders about ways to enhance the visibility and impact of the SSAC. A revised role description for new members of SSAC is currently being developed with a view to advertising the posts early next month. Officials will advise when the advert goes live and I would be grateful if you could advertise this opportunity widely across your organisation.

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Scotland has a long and continuing tradition of world-leading science and innovation. It is vital that Scottish business and industry, government and wider society are able to harness and exploit the potential benefits of this, for the good of Scotland's economy, environment and people. A new CSA Scotland, alongside a revitalised SSAC, will support that endeavour and I would be grateful if you would forward this letter to your Dean(s) of Science and Engineering for their information.

If you have any questions on either the CSA or SSAC recruitment process or comments on the CSA Scotland role and remit please do contact Douglas Brown in the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (Douglas.Brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).



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