

Professional Services Staff Member Election 2020

Hazel Lambert

I've spent nearly twenty years supporting academics to share their work with the wider world, throughout I've been trusted with handling sensitive research issues, guarding reputation, advising senior research leaders and developing strategic approaches to engagement and communications work. I believe my experience means I could make a strong contribution as Professional Services Staff Member on the University Court.

I joined the University in January 2019, I work in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine as Public Engagement with Research Manager. This means my job is to help our scientists reveal what they do, involve others in research and embed engagement as a natural way of working.

As a Senior Press Officer for the Medical Research Council I handled press for Nobel prize wins, swine and bird flu outbreaks and as MRC's Regional Communications Manager in Scotland I continued to handle high-risk or sensitive issues including closure of a primate research facility and public affairs work around the 2014 Scottish Independence referendum. I also managed our partnerships with external organisations including the Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow Science Festivals.

When my post at MRC was made redundant in 2015 I established Science Story Ltd, a communications consultancy for research scientists. I worked for the Francis Crick Institute, Imperial College London, Wellcome Sanger Institute, Wellcome, Edinburgh Science Festival, University of Dundee and NICE. All my work came through word of mouth as clients recommended me to others. My reputation for delivering quality work, on time, kept me very busy and enabled me to share profit with charity. Each year Science Story donated a proportion of profits to a charity chosen from a shortlist by my clients. In 2016 the company donated to Seamab, a residential home for primary school children who have experienced trauma and severe neglect. In 2017 and 2018 Science Story donated to the Shetland branch of Scottish Women's Aid.

In my earlier career I worked for BBC Scotland, New Scientist, CERN and the Association of Medical Research Charities.

I grew up in the Shetland Islands, studied for a BSc Honours in Medical Microbiology at the University of Edinburgh and an MSc in Science Communication at Imperial College London, married a PhD student from Belgium, persuaded him to move to Scotland and we now have two children at our local primary school. During my maternity leave I helped establish an outdoor playgroup day called Garden Guddle, I've now moved on to the afterschool club committee. I'm a champion for flexible working as I know the benefits it brings to employer and employee, for all staff, not just parents.

I decided to close Science Story and return to an employer when my children were both at school and am proud to work with you here at the University. I would now like to use the experience and skill I've developed in my time here, with the MRC and in

running my own business to help contribute to the future success of the University of Edinburgh. Thanks for reading my statement.