

## **Professional Services Staff Member Election 2024**

### **Ritchie Somerville**

I am writing to express my interest in the role of Professional Services Staff Member on the University Court. With a career that has straddled public service and academia, I believe I am well-suited to make a positive contribution to the Court, and by extension the University.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a keen ability to drive effective delivery of work, bringing people together, ensuring the work is done to a clear purpose, fostering positive relationships. In my current role as Deputy Director of EPCC, I have successfully contributed to the effective delivery of the Data Driven Innovation Programme, and in my previous role as Head of Strategy for the DDI Programme, in CSG, operated at the interface of the University with its civic partners and government, both UK and Scottish, ensuring that the opportunity for the University to benefit from and contribute to civic partnerships was realised, recognising the contributions of all staff at the university in these efforts.

I have had the opportunity to work with colleagues from across all the budget areas of the University and recognise the diversity and complexity of the University and see this as an asset to realising the opportunities to further the core pillars that the University rests on of education, research, and innovative societal and commercial impact.

I recognise that this role is to be representative of Professional Services at the University and I commit to performing the role in this context, seeking to represent the perspective of professional services colleagues across the University, and to make contributions on behalf of this community in the University to the setting broad strategic policy and objectives, approving plans intended to achieve these strategic objectives, ensuring that the University's key practices and procedures are sound and robust and ensuring that the University's overall performance is monitored and challenged as required.

I am particularly drawn to this role on the University Court because of the opportunity to contribute to an inclusive and supportive environment for all at the University. I am excited about the prospect to contribute to the Court's strategic planning and decision-making processes, and I am confident that my experience and passion will enable me to make a meaningful contribution.

I am a strong advocate for delivery through diverse teams and firmly believe in the transformative power of collaboration to achieve the outcomes desired to sustain and grow the reputation and standing of the University. I have previous experience of being on the Board of a Charity, operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and understand the OSCR requirements.

In conclusion, I am excited about the possibility of serving on the University Court and am confident that I can bring a positive perspective and valuable insights to the role. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of the University.

Thank you for considering my application.