



Press Release: 7th October 2013

New RSE General Secretary and Council take Office

Following the appointment of Professor Alice Brown as Chair of the Scottish Funding Council, it has been agreed that Professor Alan Alexander will succeed Alice as General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

The President of the RSE, Sir John Arbuthnott, thanked Professor Brown for her time in office as General Secretary, saying, "It has been a pleasure to work with Alice as the General Secretary of the RSE. She has made a major contribution to the work of the Society, both before and during her time as General Secretary, through, our Inquiry Report into Women in Science, the Enlightening the Constitutional Debate series of events and the establishment and support of the RSE Young Academy, amongst many other issues."

"Whilst I am sad to see Alice move on, I wish her every success in her new role as Chair of the Scottish Funding Council. This is an important role and one which Alice, with her experience in education is fully equipped for."

Professor Alice Brown CBE FRSE is a former Vice-Principal of the University of Edinburgh, having taught economics and politics in her academic career, and also served as the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Alice was an active figure in the development of devolution in Scotland, including, being a member of the Consultative Steering Group that developed the procedures for the Scottish Parliament, and promoting the equal representation of women in the Parliament. She was awarded a CBE in 2009 and in 2011 was elected as the first female General Secretary of the RSE.

Sir John then went on to welcome the new General Secretary, Professor Alan Alexander, "Alan will also, I am sure, help to take forward the work of the Society. Even before becoming General Secretary he has been heavily involved in the RSE Constitutional events, as well as serving as one of our co-chairs on the current Inquiry into Spreading the Benefits of Digital Participation."

Professor Alan Alexander OBE FRSE is: Emeritus Professor of Public Sector Management, Strathclyde Business School; was Founding Director, Scottish Local Authorities Management Centre, University of Strathclyde; a former Chair of Scottish Water; and has also been a member of the Economic and Social Research Council.

Sir John then went on to pay his thanks to retiring members of Council, Vice President Professor Wilson Sibbett CBE FRS FRSE, Sir David Edward KCMG QC PC FRSE and Professor Sheila Rowan MBE FRSE, who have all given exemplary service to the RSE. A welcome was also offered to Sir David Wallace CBE FRS FRSE FEng (new Vice President) and new Council members Professor Doreen Cantrell FRS FRSE FMedSci and Dr Barbara Crawford OBE FRSE.

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