

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	13 August 2026
Item Number:	21.1
Title:	Board Governance – Appointment of Committee Chairs
Responsible Executive:	Alison Evison, Chair
Report Author:	Drew McGowan, Interim Board Secretary

1 Purpose and recommendations

This is presented to the Board for:

- Decision

Recommendation

The Board is asked to

- Approve the appointment of Ritchie Johnson as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, effective from 1 October 2026.
- Approve the appointment of Derick Murray as Chair of the Performance, Assurance, Finance & Infrastructure Committee, effective from 1 October 2026.
- Approve the appointment of Hussein Patwa as Chair of the Staff Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee, effective from 1 October 2026.
- Note thanks to Derick Murray, Sandy Riddell, Joyce Duncan for their leadership of the aforementioned committees and service to the Board.
- Note that further recommendations on committee membership, including vice chair positions, will be presented to the Board in October 2026.

This report relates to:

- Board Governance

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition

- Effective

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Board Chair recommends that the Board appoint new chairs of four committees as part of succession planning for forthcoming changes to the Board's membership.

2.2 Background

Section 9.2 of the Standing Orders states that the Board shall appoint the chairs of all committees.

The Chair of the Performance, Assurance, Finance & Infrastructure Committee, Sandy Riddell, retires from the Board on 31 October 2026. The Chair of the Staff Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee, Joyce Duncan, also retires from the Board on 31 October 2026.

2.3 Assessment

The Board Chair recommends that the Board appoint Derick Murray as Chair of the Performance, Assurance, Finance & Infrastructure Committee and Hussein Patwa as Chair of the Staff Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee, effective from 1 October 2026, to replace retiring members.

As Derick Murray is currently the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, the Board Chair recommends that Ritchie Johnson is appointed to succeed him in this role, also effective from 1 October 2026.

As the public appointments process to select up to four non-executive members of the NHS Grampian Board is currently underway, the Board Chair is unable to recommend changes to committee membership and vice chair positions at this time. Recommendations will be presented to the Board at its meeting on 8 October 2026. In the interim, current committee memberships will remain unchanged.

2.3.1 Quality / Patient Care

No direct impact on patient care or service delivery.

2.3.2 Workforce

No direct workforce implications.

2.3.3 Financial

No financial implications arising from the changes.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment / Management

Appointing successor committee chairs in advance of the retirement of the current office holders will enable the new postholders to chair the committee meetings scheduled for September 2026 and support an orderly transition of committee leadership.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

The recommendations do not give rise to equality or health inequality impacts.

2.3.6 Other impacts

No other impacts identified.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

As this relates to Board governance arrangements, no specific engagement or consultation is required.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

Presented by the Board Chair in accordance with Section 9.2 of the Standing Orders.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to

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