

DR BRIDGET MCCONNELL CBE

(Lennoxton, 1958)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE AND BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Director, ScottishPower Renewable Energy Limited

Type: external, non-executive

Date of appointment: 21 June 2022

Current professional activities and positions

Dr McConnell currently serves as a board member of the National Museums of Scotland, the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the Arts & Humanities Research Council UKRI. Dr McConnell is Chair of the strategic development board of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University and is Honorary Vice President of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Professional and academic training

MA (Hons) Fine Arts from the University of St Andrews (1982)

Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Administration from Dundee College of Commerce (1983)

Master of Education from the University of Stirling (1992)

Doctor of Education from the University of Stirling (2009)

Honorary degrees: Doctor Honoris Causa (DHC) from the University of Aberdeen (2008), Doctor of Literature Honoris Causa (DLit) from the University of St. Andrews (2008), Doctor Honoris Causa (DHC) from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (2013) and Doctor of the University of Glasgow (DUniv, 2014).

She is a Fellow of the British/American Arts Association/University of Minnesota (1987), of the Royal Society of Arts (1999) and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2017) and in 2015 was made a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to culture.

Relevant experience for her role in the Company

Dr McConnell is an experienced Chief Executive, Board member and Chair with a record of achievement in leading and delivering significant service improvements, major capital developments and world renowned events in the public, cultural, sports, learning and tourism sectors. She has significant experience of strategic, policy development, governance and financial oversight. She has built and led productive, resilient and creative teams and a diverse range of partnerships with public, private and third sector organisations.

From 2007 to 2022, Dr McConnell was the Chief Executive of Glasgow Life. Glasgow Life is a charity which delivers culture, sports, learning and city marketing services on behalf of Glasgow City Council. She led a staff of 2600 with an annual budget of c.£115 million.

Highlights of her time with Glasgow Life included the £30 million refurbishment of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum (2006), the opening of the £74 million Riverside Museum designs by Zaha Hadid (2011), which was named European Museum of the Year in 2013, the opening of the £113m Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome (2012) and the £35 million Phase 1 refurbishment of Kelvin Hall as a world class centre for heritage, learning, culture and sport (2015). She led the Burrell Renaissance, the c.£70 million project to refurbish the museum and redisplay one of the world's finest single art collections. The museum reopened in 2022.

Dr McConnell played a leading role in securing and implementing the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the 2018 European Championships held in Glasgow and Berlin. She established new services in partnership with NHS, third sector agencies such as Macmillan Cancer Caring Services, national bodies such as the National Library of Scotland and the University of Glasgow.

She provided policy advice to the Glasgow Life Board and Glasgow City Council as well as advising on the contribution of these services to the wider social and economic policy outcomes of local and national government, national agencies, funding and service decision makers and influencers.

Dr McConnell has served on over 40 international, national, regional and local boards, committees and panels in the sports, events, tourism, culture and arts sectors.

From 1998 to 2007 she was the first ever Director of Culture & Leisure Services for Glasgow City Council. Prior to this, Dr McConnell developed a career in culture and recreation services.