

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Open minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two, Belford Road, Edinburgh on Monday 26 June 2017 at 1400 hrs.

Present:	Ben Thomson, Chairman Alistair Dodds Tricia Bey Willie Watt	Lesley Knox Edward Green
In Attendance:	Sir John Leighton, Director-General Christopher Baker Jacqueline Ridge Simon Groom Kathryn Farrell (item 5 only)	Jo Coomber Nicola Catterall
Apologies:	Nicky Wilson Catherine Muirden Nick Pearce	Benny Higgins Tari Lang
Secretariat:	Elaine Anderson	

Action

Open Business

1 **Chairman's Business**

1.1 **Summer Exhibition Programme**

The Chairman congratulated colleagues on the excellent summer exhibitions programme.

1.2 **New Chairman**

The Board formally noted the appointment of the new Chairman, Benny Higgins, effective from 1 July 2017. This was the current Chairman's last meeting.

1.3 **New Director Appointments**

The Chairman welcomed Jo Coomber, Director of Public Engagement, to her first meeting and noted the appointment of Professor Chris Breward as the new Director of Collection and Research.

2 **Minutes**

2.1 **Minute of the Meeting of 27 March 2017**

The minute of the meeting of 27 March 2017 was

approved as a correct record.

2.2 Note of the Board Strategy Day 15 May 2017

Note and action points noted. The Director-General commented that it was probably too early in the Brexit process to do any meaningful scenario planning and that it may be more helpful to work closely with other cultural organisations in this regard as the issues were common to many.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Departmental and Gallery Reports

4.1 Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Mr Baker reported on key points in the report, including new exhibitions.

4.2 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

The report was noted.

Plans for Kelvin Hall phase two were underway and NGS would be part of those discussions.

Mr Groom referenced the launch of the contemporary circle, to which the Chairman suggested including artists.

4.3 Public Engagement

Ms Coomber offered an insight into her first two months in post. Her main focus in the short term was people and skills retention, joined up thinking and the audience plan. She also planned to look at the Trading plan.

In response to a query on how she saw the NGS brand, Ms Coomber considered that it appeared very positive for the regular visitors, but there was no clue as to how the non-visitor perceived us. Trustees also queried who NGS's on-line competitors are, but that was variable depending on what the visitor was looking for. There was a good e-commerce opportunity through the large number of people looking at the website, half of whom are looking for information.

4.3.1 Audience Engagement Quarterly Report

The paper was noted.

4.3.2 **Visitor Figures: March-May 2017**

The visitor figure reports were noted.

Ms Farrell joined the meeting.

5 **Corporate and Business Planning**

5.1 **Q3 2016/17 Corporate KPI Report**

The year-end report was noted. It was planned to bring a research report to the next meeting with a view to reporting on research regularly thereafter.

5.2 **Strategic Risk Register**

The Risk Register was noted. The Chairman suggested that senior management succession should be identified at the top level. It was agreed that IT security should be re-articulated and more robust.

AD/EA

Mr Dodds reported that the Audit & Risk Committee planned to look at two risks in depth at each meeting. There was also a desire to review the top risk (in relation to care of the collection) on a regular basis with the full Board in line with its responsibilities.

The Chairman suggested that the risks should be linked into Trustee papers in future.

5.3 **Health & Safety Annual Report**

The excellent report was noted. Mr Dodds was concerned that one or two things were subject to funding. The report had already been discussed at the Senior Management Team and some actions had been agreed. It was noted that health & safety vigilance must increase when the SNG project starts.

5.4 **Freedom of Information, Data Protection & Visitor Complaints Annual Report**

The report was noted. It was noted also that all feedback is monitored, not just complaints, but complaints were part of a compliance requirement. Much of the feedback was positive.

5.5 **Equality Outcomes and Reports**

The report was noted.

5.6 **Gaelic Language Plan Update**

The report was noted. There was a requirement to be

compliant, but there was also a need to find the balance between public and political interest. The Chief Executive of Bord na Gaelic would be invited to a future Board meeting.

6 Partnerships

6.1 Transfer of Title of NGS Objects at Duff House to Historic Environment Scotland

Approval was sought to transfer a number of objects to Historic Environment Scotland. Most of the items were not artworks and they were all items specifically bought for the house and which made sense to stay with the house. The small number of artworks included were specifically associated with Duff House and had been carefully scrutinised by curators.

Approval was given to transfer the objects as per the list provided.

7 Public Programme 2016–20

Noted.

8 Any Other Business

Ms Knox thanked the Chairman for his excellent work over the eight years of his tenure and noted that he would be a hard act to follow.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday 11 September 2017 at 1400hrs in the Boardroom, Modern Two.