

**National Galleries of Scotland
Board of Trustees**

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 20 June 2016 at 1400 hrs.

Present: Ben Thomson, Chairman Edward Green
 Alistair Dodds Tricia Bey
 Benny Higgins Catherine Muirden
 Tari Lang

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
 Michael Clarke Christopher Baker
 Patricia Convery Frank Gribben
 Jacqueline Ridge Simon Groom
 Nicola Catterall

 Brian Doneghan (item 7.5 only)
 Sean McDonald (item 10.1 only)

Apologies: Nick Pearce, Willie Watt, Lesley Knox, Nicky Wilson

Secretariat: Kathryn Farrell

Action

1 Chairman's Business

The Chairman recommended that trustees all take time to visit the new exhibitions opening up across the galleries. Trustees offered congratulations to NGS staff for the rich and varied programme on offer for the summer season.

It was noted that this Board meeting was likely to be the last for Michael Clarke, due to retire in September. Trustees offered their thanks and appreciation for his many years of service to NGS.

Mr Thomson advised members of the Senior Management Team that based on the outcomes of recent pieces of work (reports on branding from JWA and public-facing functions from Miriam O'Connor and from staff engagement workshops), trustees were supportive of a move towards the vision of 'one collection' to ensure NGS was in a position to meet the demands and challenges for the next generation.

[Redacted]

Trustees and directors were asked to make recommendations

for Paolozzi medal recipients at the next Board meeting, to be awarded at the 2016 St Andrew's Night dinner.

All

2 **Minutes**

2.1 **Minute of the Meeting of 4 April 2016**

The minute of the meeting of 4 April 2016 was approved as a correct record.

Updates on outstanding action points:

1. The future of Generation had been considered at the strategy day and a presentation on a three-year plan for contemporary art at the SNGMA was on the agenda
2. Contacts in the Culture department at Scottish Government had confirmed that there was no formal mechanism for the award of UK capital grants to Scottish projects.
3. Frank Gribben and Paul Gilfillan had circulated a proposal to trustees setting out how progress against the 'roadshow' action plan would be communicated to staff, as well as how further feedback from staff would be encouraged and rewarded.
4. While incremental improvements had been made to the public programme planning process in recent years, there was a case for a wider strategic review. This would be considered further once a new Director of Public Engagement was in place.

2.2 **Note from the Board Strategy Day of 9 May 2016**

The note was approved.

Updates on actions arising from the session:

1. A group of trustees would be identified to support the SNGMA with development of the three-year contemporary art programme, Kelvin Hall discussions and with the structure for a national strategy for contemporary art. The Chairman noted that this group would be identified later in the year.
2. Mr Groom would present plans for a three-year contemporary art programme later in the meeting.
3. The Director-General's Executive Assistant was setting a date for trustees to visit Kelvin Hall.
4. Progress on Kelvin Hall developments would be reported to the Board in September.

3 **Matters Arising**

There were no further matters arising.

Reserved Business Redacted

Open Business

7 **Departmental and Gallery Reports**

7.1 **Scottish National Gallery**

Trustees noted the report and in particular the generous long-term loan of *Souvenir of Loch Carron* by Gustave Doré from the private individual who recently purchased the work. The loan of *Winter Day at Finzean* by Joseph Farquharson and the purchase of Sir David Wilkie's *Kissing the Child* were also noted.

7.2 **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**

The report was noted. Trustees approved *[a purchase request – details redacted]* with a contribution of £10k from trust funds, noting that it was a highly desirable addition to the collection. Mr Baker advised trustees that the SNPG would be taking part in a new Sky Arts programme entitled *Fake! The Great Masterpiece Challenge* and provided an update on recent public demonstrations against BP sponsorship. On this latter point, the Director-General noted that the ethical sponsorship policy was being reviewed and would follow in due course.

Trustees also approved the disposal through sale of *Thomas Thomson of Grange*, a work which had been flagged as not accessioned by the ongoing collections audit. Through the rigour of the audit process, the collections team were certain of its status and Mr Baker noted that it did not meet collecting criteria.

7.3 **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**

Mr Groom gave a presentation to trustees on outline plans for a three-year programme of contemporary art at Modern One. The intention was to show works from the collection and new commissions by emerging and established artists in a rolling programme anchored by key installations in Room 8. Colleagues from various departments had been involved in developing the programme. Displays would be thematic with works chosen from across the whole NGS collection. Some funding has already been committed, and other funding pledged. *[Redacted]*

The Director's report was also noted. Trustees gave approval in principle to purchase *[a work – details redacted]*. *[Trustees also approved a loan and gifts – details redacted]*.

7.4 **Audience Engagement**

7.4.1 **Quarterly Report**

Trustees noted the quarterly update on audience engagement. Ms Convery advised that the Branding Steering Group had been expanded to include representation from Education and SVS following the success of the branding workshops. Thanks were offered to all those who attended the workshops.

7.4.2 **Visitor Figures: March - May 2016**

The visitor figure reports were noted.

7.5 **Operations**

7.5.1 **Health and Safety Report**

Trustees noted the annual report. Mr Doneghan explained that the increased number of incidents was largely down to greater awareness of reporting requirements, increased visitor numbers and people coming into the NGS seeking assistance. The Health and Safety Manager had proactively sought to increase the reporting of 'near misses' which had been reflected in the report.

Trustees suggested that future reports should clarify which incidents had taken place on NGS premises and which were the result of passers-by who had been injured nearby or offsite but had entered NGS to seek assistance.

7.5.2 *Item Redacted*

8 **Public Programme 2016–20**

The Board noted the latest version of the public programme schedule.

9 **Compliance Matters**

9.1 **Performance Measures: Quarter 4 Report**

The Quarter 4/ year-end report and the updated set of

KPIs for use in 2016/17 were noted.

9.2 **Freedom of Information Annual Report**

The report was noted.

10 **Any Other Business**

10.1 **New Website Demonstration**

Mr McDonald joined the meeting to present the latest version of the new website to trustees. This was still under developing and the first phase was due to be launched on 30 June. The breadth and scale of the collection were immediately apparent in the new layout and the increased functionality meant the collection was much more accessible. Images could be downloaded at a low resolution for free if users signed up to terms and conditions, or could be purchased through the Print on Demand function. The beta website would be available alongside the existing site and users would be able to provide feedback. The second phase would introduce more features and would end with the decommissioning of the old site. The new site worked well on mobile devices. Details of users registering on the site would be used by Marketing, Retail etc. Trustees asked whether or not games and apps were being developed to appeal to younger users and schools. These were not under development at present, but could be considered in future.

Ms Convery noted that public announcements about the new site and the increased availability of the collection would be made on 30 June.

Trustees thanked Mr McDonald for the presentation.

10.2 **Board and Sub-Committee Meeting Dates 2017**

Trustees noted the schedule of meeting dates for 2017. Ms Farrell would circulate these to PAs.

KF

12 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at 1pm on Monday 12 September in the Boardroom, Modern Art Two.