COLLEGE OF EXPERTS
Application Pack – Post Description

Opportunity Summary

The Office of the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) for Scotland provides strategic leadership for healthcare science and supports the delivery of high-quality, innovative and sustainable services across NHS Scotland.

To support the ambitions set out in *Healthcare Science in Scotland: Defining Our Strategic Approach*, we are establishing a College of Experts. This will be a prestigious national network of experienced healthcare science professionals and subject matter experts who will provide independent professional advice, practical intelligence and specialist expertise to inform policy, service transformation, workforce development and innovation across Scotland.

This is a unique opportunity to:

- Help shape the future of healthcare science in Scotland, including influencing national policy, strategy and service development.
- Work alongside professional leaders and policy officials to address key challenges and opportunities in healthcare science.
- Contribute to nationally significant programmes of work that support Scotland's health priorities.
- Develop your own leadership experience and professional influence while supporting the wider healthcare science community.

Members of the College of Experts will typically contribute on a flexible basis through virtual meetings, short-life task-and-finish groups, document review and advisory activity. Membership is voluntary and unpaid. The expected commitment will vary according to expertise, interest and availability.

In return, members will gain valuable national leadership experience, opportunities to build networks across sectors and disciplines, and recognition for their contribution to advancing healthcare in Scotland.

Opportunity Description

The Healthcare Science in Scotland College of Experts is led by the Chief Scientific Officer for Scotland and will bring together recognised experts from across the NHS, academia, research, innovation and related sectors. The College will operate as a flexible advisory network, providing specialist insight and professional leadership to support national priorities.

Members will normally be appointed for an initial term of 18 months, with the possibility of a six-month extension. The Scottish Government is committed to building a diverse and inclusive College.

You may be asked to contribute to:

- National healthcare science policy development and implementation.
- Professional leadership and strategic advice on priority programmes and workstreams.
- Reviews of policy proposals, guidance and consultation documents.
- Identification of emerging scientific, digital, workforce and service developments.
- National workshops, stakeholder engagement events and collaborative activities.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and opportunities to contribute will vary according to Scottish Government priorities and members' expertise.

Most engagements will be delivered virtually through Microsoft Teams and collaborative online platforms. The College will meet collectively once per year, with most activity taking place through time-limited task-and-finish groups commissioned by the Chief Scientific Officer.

Person Specification

The ideal candidate will be a senior healthcare science professional or recognised expert who is committed to supporting the advancement of healthcare science, clinical services in Scotland and contributing their expertise for the wider public good.

Essential Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Recognised expertise and experience within healthcare science or a related field relevant to the strategic priorities of the Chief Scientific Officer.
- Evidence of professional leadership, influence or subject matter expertise at national or international level.
- Ability to communicate complex scientific, technical or professional information clearly and effectively both in writing and verbally.
- Ability to work collaboratively across professional, organisational and sectoral boundaries.
- Commitment to evidence-informed decision-making and improving outcomes for clinical services, patients and the workforce.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of advising senior leaders, policy-makers or national programmes.
- Experience of leading strategic projects, innovation programmes or service transformation initiatives.
- Experience of working across academia, industry, professional bodies or national networks.

Application Requirements

Applicants will be asked to submit two written statements outlining their motivation for applying for the role, and a statement of suitability which should provide evidence about their skills, knowledge and experience in relation to the criteria listed above.

Full details are listed in the ‘How to Apply’ document accompanying this Post Description.

COLLEGE OF EXPERTS
Application Pack – How to Apply

Deadline for Applications

Applications must be emailed to OfficeoftheChiefScientificOfficer@gov.scot by no later than 23:59 on Tuesday 29 September 2026.

Application Requirements

Applicants are being asked to submit two written statements:

1. Motivation Statement (Maximum 500 words)

Tell us why you are interested in this role and what attracts you to joining the Chief Scientific Officer's College of Experts. We would also like to understand the perspective, expertise and leadership you would bring, and the impact you hope to make if appointed to this role.

Please describe:

- Your motivation for applying for this role.
- What attracts you to this opportunity.
- The unique contribution you believe you would bring to the role.
- The impact you hope to make if appointed.

2. Statement of Suitability (Maximum 750 words)

Please provide evidence demonstrating how your skills, knowledge and experience meet the essential requirements of the role. You should use this to also demonstrate how you meet the desirable criteria if applicable. Applicants are encouraged to focus on specific examples and achievements that illustrate their ability to deliver in a role of this complexity and scale.

ANNEX A

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