Information pack for the appointment of Members to the Crown Estate Scotland Board



Scottish Ministers are seeking to appoint up to five new Members to the Crown Estate Scotland Board. The Cabinet Secretary values highly the benefits of having different points of view on the board and welcomes applications from people from all walks of life.

The appointments process for these Board Member vacancies follows the <u>Code of Practice</u> <u>for Public Appointments</u> and are regulated by the <u>Ethical Standards Commissioner</u>.

Key dates for this appointment round

Closing date	5.00 pm on Thursday, 31 July.
Sift of applications	12 August 2025
Date applicants will hear about the	w/b 18 August 2025
outcome of their application	
Interviews	3, 4, 5 September 2025 in Edinburgh.
	It is unlikely that we will be able to offer
	alternative interview dates.
Ministerial decision	w/b 23 September 2025
Start date	1 October 2025 (three roles), 1 March 2026
	(one role) and 1 May 2026 (one role)
	alternative interview dates. w/b 23 September 2025 1 October 2025 (three roles), 1 March 202



26 June 2025

Dear Applicant

Appointment of Members of the Board of Crown Estate Scotland

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Crown Estate Scotland.

This is an exciting time to join Crown Estate Scotland. The organisation has accomplished much since management of the Scottish Crown Estate was devolved to Scottish Ministers in 2017, and the landscape in which Crown Estate Scotland operates, continues to evolve. This is in particular due to the development and ongoing delivery of the world-leading ScotWind and INTOG (Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas) offshore wind leasing rounds, but also the increasingly important role of natural assets in addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity, proposals for land reform, the sustainable development of aquaculture, reform of agricultural support, a growing focus on community wealth building, and the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver net zero through a just transition.

Crown Estate Scotland is a key partner of the Scottish Government. It is at the heart of Scotland's journey to net zero and commitment to a wellbeing economy and has a pivotal role to play in promoting sustainable development across a range of assets and sectors. Its purpose is 'investing in property, natural resources and people to generate lasting value for Scotland'. This involves achieving a fine balance between economic, social and environmental outcomes across a vast portfolio of assets to provide maximal benefit for Scotland's communities now, and for generations to come.

On this occasion, Ministers are looking to fill five roles with specific skills and experience required across these roles. There are also a number of general skills that all applicants need to demonstrate. Full details are set out in the person specification on pages 9-13.

Members also play a major role in harnessing the expertise of the organisation and the potential of the assets it manages and shaping the organisation for the future. This includes working with the Board on the 2026-31 Corporate Plan, which is currently under consultation.

Scottish Ministers value very highly the benefits of having different experience and points of view on our Board. We particularly welcome applications from those with protected characteristics that are currently under-represented on the CES Board. These include women, disabled people, LGBTI+ people, those from black and minority ethnic communities, people aged under 50 and others. We also welcome applications from people living within rural and island communities who have knowledge and insight of the work of CES and how it impacts on the needs and aspirations of those communities.

I would be happy to answer any queries you have and can be contacted at <u>euan.mcvicar@crownestatescotland.com</u>. Alternatively, you can contact Gayle Fitzpatrick, Head of Corporate Governance at Crown Estate Scotland at <u>gayle.fitzpatrick@crownestatescotland.com</u>. GatenbySanderson have been appointed to support the search for applicants and if you wish to contact them, please contact Rosemary Baylis-West at <u>rosemary.baylis-west@gatenbysanderson.com</u> or on 07407 844166.

Thank you again for your interest and I welcome your consideration to applying.

Yours sincerely

Euan McVicar Chair of the Board

Information about the Member roles

Remuneration	£300.00 per day.
	Reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed. The role is non-pensionable.
Time commitment	Two days per month. This will be a mix of daytime Board meetings, committee meetings, reading documents, attending strategic meetings, and stakeholder events/site visits. The Board's ongoing business needs may mean some flexibility is needed.
	In the first year of appointment, new Members will be remunerated for an additional two days to support the induction and on-boarding process.
Length of appointment term	The appointments are for three years from 1 October 2025 (three roles), 1 March 2026 (one role) and 1 May 2026 (one role)
Location of meetings	Crown Estate Scotland hold quarterly Board meetings in Edinburgh, usually in the Crown Estate Scotland office at Quartermile 2, Lister Square. Meetings in 2025 are scheduled as follows: • 24 September; and • 17 December. Please note: these dates are subject to
	change by around two/three weeks due to an internal review. Dates will be finalised in July 2025.

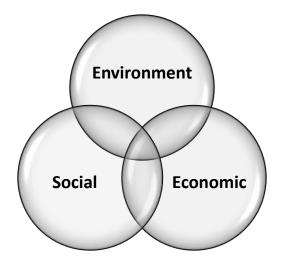
	The Decodeles helds a constructed
	The Board also holds approximately
	two strategic meetings and at least one site
	visit outside Edinburgh to engage with a
	variety of stakeholders around Scotland.
Disqualifications	A member of the Scottish Parliament
	cannot also hold a public appointment for
	public bodies listed in the schedule of <u>the</u>
	Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order
	2020.
	The Crown Estate Scotland (Interim
	Management) Order 2017 also provides
	that the Scottish Ministers may not appoint
	a person as a member of Crown Estate
	Scotland Board if the person is: a member
	of the Scottish Parliament; a member of the
	House of Commons; a member of the
	House of Lords or, a member of the
	European Parliament.
	Former ministers and senior crown servants
	(director general level and above) should
	seek advice from the Advisory Committee
	on Business Appointments (ACOBA) before
	applying for this role.
	Applicants will also be ineligible to apply for
	this appointment if they have already
	served a total of eight years as a Member of
	the Crown Estate Scotland Board.

Crown Estate Scotland

Crown Estate Scotland's purpose is 'investing in property, natural resources and people to generate lasting value for Scotland'. The organisation is at the heart of Scotland's journey to net zero and has a key role to play in promoting sustainable development across a range of assets and sectors.

Crown Estate Scotland is a self-financing Statutory Public Corporation accountable to the Scottish Ministers and to the Scottish Parliament. It is responsible for managing a diverse portfolio of land and property - called the Scottish Crown Estate - including seabed, coastline, commercial property and rural estates. Revenue profits from the Scottish Crown Estate are transferred to the Scottish Consolidated Fund for public spending and capital profits are reinvested in the Estate.

The diversity of the property, rights and interests comprising the Scottish Crown Estate means that decisions on investment, use and sale of assets have the potential to deliver significant economic, social, and environmental benefits for communities and business across Scotland. Community wealth building, impact investing, blue carbon (carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems), the transition to decarbonised energy and preventing nature loss are all areas of focus and opportunity for Crown Estate Scotland.



Crown Estate Scotland works in a way that: • Generates prosperity and value for all of Scotland;

Supports the growth of sustainable business and industry in Scottish seas and on the coast;
Invests in places to make them better for those who live, work and visit there;

Promotes sustainable ways of producing energy, food, and other products; and
Creates opportunities for people to use and benefit from the Scottish Crown Estate.

Figure 1: Crown Estate Scotland deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits for Scotland.

The Scottish Crown Estate is a collection of ancient and more recently acquired rights, functions and assets owned by the Monarch. The total capital value of Scottish Crown Estate assets was estimated to be around £665.6 million in March 2024.

The current corporate plan is <u>here</u> (extended until March 2026) and the most recent annual report and accounts are <u>here</u>.

The role of a Member

Board Members provide active and effective direction, support and guidance to ensure that Crown Estate Scotland delivers effectively and efficiently and in accordance with the aims, policies and priorities of the Scottish Ministers. They provide a strong 'challenge function', carefully scrutinising planned and underlying assumptions before decisions are taken. In exercising this function, where necessary, they will challenge other Board Members and senior officials.

Specific roles and responsibilities may vary but, unless otherwise agreed, Board Members will:

- prepare for, and attend, meetings of Crown Estate Scotland and any relevant committees such as the Audit and Risk and Investment Committees;
- contribute to strategic development and decision-making;
- attend other meetings and events on behalf of Crown Estate Scotland as required;
- assist in the development, approval and monitoring of Crown Estate Scotland's corporate plans which demonstrate how Crown Estate Scotland contributes to Scottish Government's National Outcomes;
- establish good partnership working with other organisations and participate in stakeholder groups, discussion forums and open meetings (as required); and
- carry out other tasks that may reasonably be required.

Further information

For further information about Crown Estate Scotland and the role, please contact Gayle Fitzpatrick, Head of Corporate Governance at gayle.fitzpatrick@crownestatescotland.com. GatenbySanderson have been appointed to support the search for applicants and if you wish to contact them, please contact Rosemary Baylis-West at <u>rosemary.baylis-west@gatenbysanderson.com</u> or on 07407 844166.

You can also find out more about Crown Estate Scotland at <u>www.crownestatescotland.com/</u>.

The Selection Panel

Chair	Malcolm Pentland, Deputy Director, Lead
	for Marine Economy and Communities,
	Scottish Government
Independent panel member	Patricia Armstrong, Leadership and
	Governance Consultant
Panel member	Euan McVicar, Chair of the Crown Estate
	Scotland Board
Representative from the Ethical Standards	Paul Matheson, Public Appointments
Commissioner	Adviser
Panel member (sift stage only)	Emily Ostocke, Senior Sponsorship Officer,
	Scottish Government
Panel member (sift stage only)	Isla Baker, People Team, Crown Estate
	Scotland

Please note that applicants will be asked to declare if they know any members of the selection panel or those conducting any part of the assessment as detailed on page 14. The selection panel will also declare if they know any applicants. Any actual or perceived conflicts of interest will be managed in line with the <u>Ethical Standards Commissioners Code</u> <u>of Practice for Public Appointments</u>.

Person Specification

The Cabinet Secretary is looking for up to five new Members who can put their skills, knowledge, understanding and experience to good use on the Board. The table below sets out the skills, knowledge, understanding and experience that we are seeking and explains how the criteria will be tested. You may have gained your experience through work, by being active in your community, in a voluntary capacity or through your own lived experience.

The priority criteria are weighted over the essential criteria, and the candidate or candidates who provide the strongest evidence against each priority criterion will be considered most able to fulfil the roles. In the event that candidates provide evidence of equal merit against the priority criteria, the selection panel will then take into account the strength of the evidence presented against the essential criteria in determining the candidate or candidates most able to fulfil the roles.

The candidates recommended to the Cabinet Secretary for appointment will be the combination of candidates who together most closely meet the priority and essential criteria overall and are, therefore, most suitable to meet the needs of the Board as a whole.

Priority Criteria	Example indicators	How this will be assessed
 Excellent understanding and/or experience of Human Resource management, including change management and organisational design 	 experience of strategic people management; experience of leading or guiding a change management process; an appreciation of human resource aspects of change management; previous experience of operating on a remuneration or people committee would be advantageous. 	This will be assessed at the application stage and at the interview stage. In your online application: Please demonstrate evidence of how you meet this criterion. Your response should be no more than 300 words.

You may provide evidence for more than one priority criterion if you wish.

2. Excellent understanding and/or experience of risk management, financial accounting and audit	 experience at a senior level of auditing financial accounts within a large complex organisation; understands how risk within a large complex organisation is managed and assured and is able to identify risk and gauge risk appetite (including identifying new and emerging risk); previous experience of Audit and Risk Committees would be advantageous; ideally, the successful candidate will have a financial accounting qualification awarded from a recognised body such as ACCA; AAPA; AIA; CIMA; CIPFA. 	This will be assessed at the application stage and at the interview stage. In your online application: Please demonstrate evidence of how you meet this criterion. Your response should be no more than 300 words.
 3. Excellent understanding and/or experience of the management of: commercial property/land investment; and/or capital projects; and/or land development/ regeneration. 	 relevant evidence and a depth of experience of having operated at senior management decision maker level (executive or non-executive) of the management of capital projects, investments, property and infrastructure portfolio management; experience such as an: investor; asset manager; developer; adviser; any other relevant experience. 	This will be assessed at the application stage and at the interview stage. In your online application: Please demonstrate evidence of how you meet this criterion. Your response should be no more than 300 words.

4.	Excellent understanding and/or experience of the economic and environmental challenges and opportunities within rural/coastal/island communities	 experience of sengagement of environmental economic issue rural/coastal/c experience of n management, service rural land refor aquaculture. 	and and s with ommunities; ural land application interview s In your on Please den evidence o this criterio	line application: nonstrate f how you meet on. Your response no more than
5.	Excellent understanding and/or experience of climate change and sustainability in an operational context	 experience of decarbonisatio plans/nature p development; experience of I Capital investm sustainability r impact investm 	n/transition ositive Natural lent or elated n/transition interview s In your on Please den evidence o this criterio	line application: nonstrate f how you meet on. Your response no more than
6.	Excellent understanding and/or experience of working effectively in, or closely with, Government in Scotland	 knowledge and understanding areas of Scottis Government re (particularly m portfolios relev work of CES); understanding devolved gove works in Scotla experience of v effectively with Government N experience of f collaboration v agencies and b Scotland. 	of different h application interview s sponsibility nisterial ant to the of how f ho	line application: nonstrate f how you meet on. Your response no more than

Essential Criteria	Example indicators	How this will be assessed
 Understanding of longer term planning/seeing the bigger picture 	 identifies a comprehensive range of priorities, challenges and risks within different timeframes and can evaluate their impact from a strategic perspective; has a clear informed picture of the long term aims of an organisation and wider public benefit in a Scottish context when taking decisions particularly in the communities that Crown Estate Scotland serves; sees the whole picture rather than the part they may feel most qualified or experienced in and gives consideration to other views. 	This will be assessed at the application stage and at the interview stage. In your online application: Please demonstrate evidence of how you meet this criterion. Your response should be no more than 300 words.
2. The ability to challenge constructively	 evidence of supportively challenging the views of others within a group/ committee setting; the ability to demonstrate where you have challenged proposals which has led to a positive change in the aims/objectives of organisation or within policy areas; 	This will be assessed at the application stage and at the interview stage. In your online application: Please demonstrate evidence of how you meet this criterion. Your response should be no more than 300 words.

	 the ability to demonstrate collective leadership when a decision is one with which you may not agree. 	
 Understanding of the oversight and scrutiny of performance 	 the ability to successfully oversee and scrutinise performance in line with a defined plan; an understanding of the measures used to evaluate performance; an understanding of how to bring about change to improve business performance. 	This will be assessed at the interview stage.
4. The ability to communicate, collaborate and influence	 the ability to work successfully as part of a team; the ability to be succinct, persuasive and flexible; a track record of being able to influence within a group; the ability to effectively represent/promote the organisation to a wide range of stakeholders, including within an area of expertise; the ability to work collaboratively; the ability to adapt your style appropriately for different audiences. 	This criterion will be assessed throughout the assessment process.

The Application Process

How to apply

For the online application, you should provide evidence of one or more of the priority criteria. The evidence should be no more than 300 words for each criterion:

- 1. Excellent understanding, and/or experience of Human Resource management, including change management and organisational design;
- 2. Excellent understanding, and/or experience of risk management, financial accounting and audit;
- 3. Excellent understanding, and/or experience of the management of:
 - commercial property/land investment; and/or
 - capital projects; and/or
 - land development/regeneration
- 4. Excellent understanding, and/or experience of the economic and environmental challenges and opportunities within rural/coastal/island communities;
- 5. Excellent understanding, and/or experience of climate change and sustainability in an operational context;
- 6. Excellent understanding and/or experience of working effectively in, or closely with, Government in Scotland.

You should also provide evidence of the essential criteria listed below:

- 1. Understanding of longer term planning/seeing the bigger picture;
- 2. The ability to challenge constructively.

We strongly recommend that you draft your answers in a word document and check that you are happy with them before copying and pasting your answers in the relevant sections of the online application. When completing the online application, you will need to enter information in all the boxes before proceeding, Therefore you will need to enter '**N/A**' in any boxes that you are not providing evidence for.

In your online application you will be invited to provide a one page tailored career/life history. This should include relevant information from your professional, personal and voluntary experience. You may wish to include:

- Dates;
- Information about the organisation;
- Information about your role and experience.

Completed applications must be submitted by **5.00 pm on Thursday, 31 July 2025**.

Please note that you will not be able to update your answers or supporting documents once you have submitted your application. Late applications will not be accepted by the selection panel.

If you use assistive technology, please contact the Public Appointments Team for an accessible application form by email at <u>public.appointments@gov.scot</u>.

Guaranteed interviews

This appointment round will provide guaranteed interviews for disabled people who meet the criteria for the role being tested at the application stage.

The Assessment Process

The assessment process will happen as follows:

- The selection panel will assess all application forms against the criteria for appointment (see the person specification). Those who demonstrate evidence that most closely meets the criteria tested at this stage will be shortlisted for interview.
- 2. The selection panel will interview candidates. The questions they ask will relate directly to the criteria for appointment. There will also be a further exercise where candidates will be asked to give their thoughts on a particular scenario relevant to the Member roles. Full details will be provided to those shortlisted for interview.
- The selection panel will also ask questions relevant to the fit and proper person test (see below) which will include questions about the <u>Principles of Public Life in</u> <u>Scotland</u>.
- 4. The selection panel will review the evidence provided and agree on which candidate or candidates have most closely met the criteria for selection and should be recommended to the Cabinet Secretary.
- 5. The Cabinet Secretary will make a decision about whom to appoint based on evidence from the selection panel.
- 6. The Cabinet Secretary may request to meet with the candidate or candidates before making a final decision.
- Appointees will be asked to complete pre-appointment checks which will include a Disclosure Check (there is no charge for this). Appointment is conditional on satisfactory completion of these.

Fit and proper person checks

In the context of public appointments, a fit and proper person is someone who is suitable because they meet the requirements of the role, and their past or present activities and behaviour means they are suitable. Tests are built into different stages of the appointment process to ensure that:

- Conduct to date has been compatible with the public appointment;
- Membership is not barred by the body's constitution e.g., criminal record or bankruptcy (see disqualifications);
- There are no unmanageable conflicts of interest;
- Political activity is declared;
- There is agreement to abide by the Principles of Public life in Scotland. Please see the link <u>above</u>;
- There is confirmation that the time commitment required for the role can be met.

Media/Social media checks for candidates invited to interview

The selection panel may consider publicly available information posted by candidates on social media or information that is reported in the media. Any findings that the selection panel agree are pertinent to the role or that may call into question suitability for the appointment, credibility of the appointments process or the public body will be discussed with candidates at interview. Consideration of any issues will take place openly and transparently to establish the facts. Candidates will be given an opportunity to respond to any concerns. This information will be handled in line with the Privacy Notice for public appointments: <u>Privacy notice - Public appointments</u>: <u>guide - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</u>.

Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018

Scottish Government recognises the implications of the Supreme Court judgement dated 16 April 2025 for public appointments subject to the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018. The Supreme Court ruled that a person with a full gender recognition certificate (GRC) which recognises their gender as female, is not a "woman" for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and consequently the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018. Revised statutory guidance on the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 has been prepared and will be published soon. The updated guidance will apply to this appointment process once available. The Scottish Government is committed to dignity, fairness and respect for all and actively invites applications from all.

Common Questions and Answers

Who can I contact to speak Fo	or more information, please contact Euan McVicar,	
about this role?	Chair on euan.mcvicar@crownestatescotland.com.	
A	Alternatively, you can contact Gayle Fitzpatrick, Head	
ot	of Corporate Governance at Crown Estate Scotland, at	
ga	ayle.fitzpatrick@crownestatescotland.com.	
	SatenbySanderson have been appointed to support	
	he search for applicants and if you wish to contact	
	hem, please contact Rosemary Baylis-West at	
	osemary.baylis-west@gatenbysanderson.com or on	
0	07407 844166.	
	with an information about Group Estate Sectland can	
	Further information about Crown Estate Scotland can	
	be found at <u>www.crownestatescotland.com/</u> .	
	Please contact the Public Appointments Team by email	
disability related reasonable at	t <u>public.appointments@gov.scot</u> or by telephone	
adjustment?	on 0300 244 1898.	
D	Deaf, deafblind and BSL users can contact the team	
vi	ia <u>contactSCOTLAND-BSL</u> .	
I am having a problem with the P	Please contact the Public Appointments Team (see	
application process who can I co	ontact details above).	
speak with?		
Do you have any advice about Ye	es. More information is provided here: <u>Introduction-</u>	
how to complete an application	Public appointments: guide - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).	
form?		
Do you have any advice for Ye	es. More information is provided here: Introduction -	
candidates attending	Public appointments: guide - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).	
interviews?		
I can't attend the interview in Ye	es. You can request to attend the interview using	
person, can I attend remotely? N		
•	/IS teams. Please contact the Public Appointments	
	AS teams. Please contact the Public Appointments Team (see contact details above).	
	eam (see contact details above).	
Will you reimburse expenses for Ye		

What does 'appointed on merit'	Appointed on merit means that the people who are
mean?	appointed most closely meet the criteria that is sought
	for the board vacancy at a point in time. People are
	assessed on the evidence that they present in the
	appointments process and the findings of the fit and
	proper person test.
What role does the Ethical	The ESC regulate and monitor the public appointments
Standards Commissioner (ESC)	process. The Commissioner plays a role in ensuring
have in the appointments	appointments are made on merit and use fair
process?	methods. More information about the Commissioner's
	role is provided here:
	Public appointments Information leaflet Ethical
	Standards Commissioner.
Can I apply if I am not a British	Yes. You can apply for and be appointed to the Boards
citizen?	of Public Bodies if you are not a British citizen.
	However, you must be legally entitled to work in the
	UK.
Would remuneration for a	Possibly. Taking up a remunerated public appointment
public appointment impact on	may affect benefits payments. This will depend on
my benefits?	individual circumstances and you should seek advice
	from your benefits provider. More information is
	provided at
	Public Appointments and Welfare Benefits: Information - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).
Do the selection panel see	No. Diversity monitoring information provided by
information from the diversity	applicants is not shared with the selection panel.
monitoring form?	If applicants opt for a guaranteed interview this
	information will be shared with the selection panel
	following shortlisting.
	Sometimes information about a reasonable
	adjustment is shared with the selection panel to
	adjustment is shared with the selection panel to ensure that requirements are met (e.g. if a BSI
	adjustment is shared with the selection panel to ensure that requirements are met (e.g. if a BSL interpreter is required).

Do I need to provide an email	In order to meet the requirements of the Baseline	
address and contact details at	-	
	Personnel Security Standard (BPSS), the Scottish	
application stage?	Government must be able to verify the credentials of	
	applicants for public appointments should they be	
	recommended for appointment. To ensure that this is	
	possible all applicants must provide an address and	
	contact details at application stage. If applicants do not	
	provide this information their application will be	
	rejected.	
How will my personal	All personal information will be handled with great	
information be handled?	care and in line with UK GDPR and data protection	
	requirements. Further information can be found in the	
	Privacy Notice on the application system.	
Can I get feedback on my	Yes. You can request feedback.	
application or interview?		
Is any training provided if I am	Yes. Each board has their own induction process and	
offered and take up an	training offer. New appointees are also invited to	
appointment?	attend an induction day hosted by the Scottish	
	Government.	
Is it possible to hold more than	Yes. It is possible to have more than one public	
one public appointment?	appointment. You should check that you can make the	
	time commitment for an additional appointment and	
	that there are no unmanageable conflicts of interest.	
Are public appointments	Yes. Every appointment is announced here: Public	
announced?	appointments: news releases - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	
	The board may also announce new appointments on	
	their own website and social media platforms.	
	Information published will include a biography and	
	details of any political activity within the last five years.	
What standards are expected of	The conduct expected of board members of Scottish	
board members?	public boards is set out here: <u>Members of devolved</u>	
	public bodies: model code of conduct - December	
	2021 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)(this includes the	
	Principles of Public Life). You should also read	
	www.crownestatescotland.com/corporate/structure-	
	governance.	

How can I complain about the	Further information about the complaints process for
public appointments process?	public appointments can be found here: <u>How to apply -</u>
	Public appointments: guide - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).
	Anyone concerned about public appointments can
	raise a complaint and have it independently
	investigated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.
	Details here Investigation process public appointments
	Ethical Standards Commissioner

For further information

Please contact the Public Appointments Team, Scottish Government

Email: public.appointments@gov.scot

Phone number: 0300 244 1898

Deaf, deafblind and BSL users can contact the team via contactSCOTLAND-BSL

