

NEWS RELEASE

In February 2021 the Commission announced that its current Chief Executive, Mr Gerard Sinclair, would be retiring from the Commission in September 2021. Following this announcement the Commission ran an open and fair recruitment process to select and appoint his successor.

This process has now been concluded and the Commission can now announce, following approval by the Board and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, that the successful candidate is Mr Michael Walker, currently the Commission's Head of Casework and Information Governance.

Mr Walker commenced work with the Commission as a legal officer in 2001 and was subsequently promoted internally to the positions of Senior Legal Officer in 2007 and then Head of Casework & Information Governance in 2013. His appointment as Chief Executive of the Commission will commence upon the retirement of Mr Sinclair later in September 2021.

Bill Matthews, Chair of the Commission said today: *"Finding a suitable replacement for Gerry was always going to be difficult but the Board are delighted to be able to appoint Michael following a competitive process. Michael brings to the position a strong criminal legal knowledge and experience, coupled with a fantastic awareness of the Commission's operating procedures and role within the criminal justice system. The Board is therefore confident that he is able for the challenge that the Chief Executive role presents and looks forward to supporting the handover process."*

Notes for Editors

The Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission was established as an independent body on 1 April 1999 to review alleged miscarriages of justice in Scottish convictions and/or sentences. Under section 194 A to L of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (as inserted by section 25 of the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Act 1997) the Commission can refer a case to the High Court if it believes that a miscarriage of justice may have occurred and that it is in the interests of justice that a reference should be made. Once a case is referred to the High Court by the Commission, it will proceed as a normal appeal.

The Commission operates with a Board of 8 Members, one of whom is the Chairperson, a Chief Executive, a Director of Corporate Services, a Head of Casework, 2 Senior Legal Officers, 3 Legal Officers and administrative support staff.

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