

Alastair Merrill
Vice-Principal (Governance)

14/05/2025

Katriona Carmichael
CEO OSCR

By email only to: info@oscr.org.uk and [REDACTED]

Dear Katriona,

I am writing to notify you of the actions that the University Court has taken to address a breach in duties by one of its trustees.

Last July the University Court took the exceptional decision to dismiss the Rector of the University, Stella Maris, as a member of Court and as a Charity Trustee, on the grounds that she was in serious and persistent breach of the Court Code of Conduct and of her obligations under the Charities and Trustees (Scotland) Act 2005. This followed the Rector's refusal to accept the findings of a report into her actions and activities by Morag Ross KC (now Lady Ross), and her insistence that she was not subject to the same governance and administrative mechanisms as other members of Court. The statement from the Senior Lay Member as chair of Court announcing this can be found [here](#).

The Rector exercised her right of appeal to the Chancellor of the University last August. The Rector also raised judicial review proceedings against the University Court (Laura Anderson's letter reference SM/PTR/24-6 of 31 October) but subsequently dropped these in January 2025.

On April 29, the Chancellor issued his decision.

Despite accepting as a matter of fact the actions and activities of the Rector that had led Court to pass resolutions discharging her, the Chancellor decided to quash the Court resolutions. As a consequence, the Rector is reinstated as a full member of Court and Charity Trustee. Her term of office, which began on 1 November 2023, runs until 31 October 2026.

Court met in special session on 12 May to consider the Chancellor's decision, which is being published in full on the University's website. Despite concerns over the quality of the Chancellor's judgement, Court was clear that a legal challenge would not be in the interests of the University, and that it was important to move on. However, Court also recognised its obligations under the 2005 Charities Act as a board of trustees to take such measures as are reasonably practicable to address breaches in duty and ensure there will be no recurrence.

Accordingly, the Senior Lay Member on behalf of Court has written to the Rector welcoming her back to full membership of Court, reminding her of her obligations under the Court Code of Conduct, the

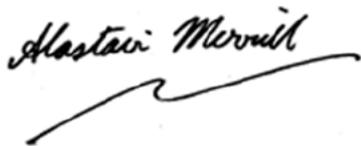
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Principles of Ethical Standards in Public Life, and Charities legislation, and stating that future compliance with these is a condition of her return to active participation in Court. A copy of his letter has been placed on the University website, together with the Chancellor's decision, and can be found [here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Merrill
Vice-Principal (Governance)