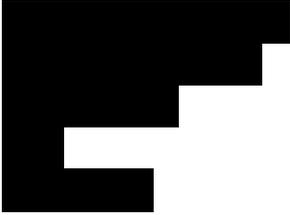




Ray Perman
Senior Lay Member, University Court

Stella Maris,



By email to: rector@st-andrews.ac.uk; 

13 May 2025

Dear Stella,

As you will be aware, Court met on Monday in special session to consider the Chancellor's judgement on your appeal. We agreed to accept the Chancellor's decision, and to welcome you back as a full member of Court.

We look forward to you bringing your energy, ideas, and commitment to your role on Court, and to working with us as colleagues for the good of all St Andrews students and staff.

Court's decision last summer to discharge you was not, as some have sought to portray it, an issue of freedom of speech but one of governance. It is very important for all of our community that this is clearly established and understood.

As Court has repeatedly stressed, you were, and are, entitled to freedom of speech.

Morag Ross' report, however, found that a number of your actions and activities, particularly on social media, represented a breach of governance. Ms Ross found that you breached your obligations as a Trustee, and under the Court Code of Conduct. The Chancellor's judgment does not alter the findings of the Ross report.

Court accepted the Ross report in full, including her recommendation that dismissal would be a disproportionate response to the breaches identified, but that Court could consider measures short of dismissal. Court is obliged under Charities law to address any breaches by trustees and take measures to ensure there will not be a recurrence. It was your lack of willingness to engage with that process, and to accept that all Court members are bound by the same rules and responsibilities, that ultimately left Court with no option but, very reluctantly, to pass the resolutions discharging you last July.

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Whilst the Chancellor's decision is to quash those resolutions, he accepted as a matter of fact the actions and activities that led Court to pass them; his decision also confirms that all members of Court, including the Rector, are subject to the same standards and expectations, rules and responsibilities.

Those requirements are set out in the Court Code of Conduct, and in the Principles of Ethical Standards in Public Life. As Charity Trustees, Court members have additional statutory obligations, in particular to put the interests of the University before their own interests or those of any other person or organisation; and the principle of collective responsibility.

We are writing to all Court members reminding them of these requirements and obligations. In returning to full membership of Court, you are confirming that you understand, accept and will abide by them. If you would like any support on what that means in practice, we shall be happy to arrange that.

I can assure you that Court members are looking forward to welcoming you back to the next scheduled meeting of Court on 6 June, and new Court members are looking forward to meeting you. Your access to Court documentation has already been restored, and I would be happy to meet with you beforehand to brief you on key developments over the past year if you would find that of help. I can also confirm that you may now proceed with the recruitment of a Rector's Assessor to Court.

I hope we can move forward constructively in the interests of good governance and of the future wellbeing of the University.

In the interests of transparency, we shall be publishing this letter, together with the Chancellor's decision, on the University website. We shall also be informing the Charities Regulator and the Scottish Funding Council of the situation.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. J. Perman". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a clear distinction between the first and last names.

Ray Perman, Senior Lay Member

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