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| LSA_Logo_short (Jpeg Interchange format) | **Chair of the** **Board of Directors** **Recruitment Pack**  |

**About LSA**

Legal Services Agency (LSA) is Scotland's largest law centre and is committed to tackling the unmet legal needs of those in disadvantage. Established in 1990, we have a 30 plus years of experience of providing legal advice and representation addressing the effects of poverty, disadvantage and discrimination and enhancing legal education.

We have offices in Glasgow, Inverclyde and hold outreach surgeries in other areas providing services to individuals and organisations throughout Scotland. Our team has accumulated significant experience in areas of social welfare law, all areas of housing law, mental health, discrimination, welfare benefits, community care and criminal injuries compensation. Making the most of the lessons learned from service delivery during the pandemic, the organization has been operating with a hybrid working model, utilising both face-to-face delivery and digital mediums as appropriate.

We are a major contributor in legal education, and undertake research, produce publications and deliver a wide range of seminars and training programmes.

We are pleased to have launched our new [website](https://lsa.org.uk/) in 2021 and our [Annual Report](https://lsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf) provides further details of the exceptional commitment of our team and the impact of our work over the last year in what has continued to be challenging times for the communities we support.

**The role of our Board**

Legal Services Agency Limited is a Scottish charity and a company limited by guarantee. The organisation works in partnership with Brown & Co. Legal LLP which supplies all of the organisation’s legal work. More about the relationship and structure with Brown & Co. Legal LLP can be found on our [website](https://lsa.org.uk/about/lsa-and-brown-co-legal-llp/).

The Board of Directors are made up of annually elected members of the community, who donate their time on a voluntary basis, offering a breadth of knowledge from the private, public, and voluntary sector. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected on an annual basis from among the members of the Board. We are a [membership](https://lsa.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/) organisation and invite nominations from our Members. In addition, the Board of Directors are able to appoint up to five ‘Appointed Directors’ who are not members.

We have highly skilled and committed [Board](https://lsa.org.uk/about/governance/) of Directors with wide range of backgrounds: private, public, third sector and academia. Our Board Directors are volunteers, however we reimburse travel and other expenses incurred in carrying out the role. For the avoidance of any confusion, the reference to ‘Trustees’ and ‘Directors’ is interchangeable and refers to our Board of Directors.

Our Board Directors are responsible for overall governance, financial management and strategic direction of LSA.

* Board Directors ensure we have a clear strategy, and our work and goals are in line with our vision.
* Our Board of Directors are responsible for our effective governance, ensuring we meet our legal obligations and our financial resources are managed efficiently.

The Board normally meets six times per annum to ensure appropriate governance and guide our strategy at our Glasgow Offices based at Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH with the option to join meetings remotely if required.

The Executive Committee and Finance and Risk Committee, Sub-Committees of the Board meet in alternate months between Board meetings to provide more detailed consideration of matters as designated by the Board of Directors.

Board Directors are able to participate in meetings remotely via telephone conferencing or online mediums along with in-person meetings in our Glasgow Office. Currently, Sub-Committee meetings continue to be held online and Board meetings are hybrid, providing flexibility for in-person and online attendance as required.

**Role of Chair of the Board of Directors**

We seek an experienced and dynamic leader to Chair our Board of Directors. With exceptional governance and strategic planning expertise, you will **work closely with our current Chair until January/February 2025** and play a key role in guiding the organisation's future.

You will have a key role in steering the Board to fulfil its governance responsibilities, and mission, ensuring regulatory compliance, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. Your financial acumen and management experience will be crucial in supporting a well-functioning Board where diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape our strategic objectives for the next three to five years. As Chair, you’ll have a crucial role in supporting the CEO and Senior Management Team and constructively supporting them to deliver on the organisation's agreed objectives.

The role currently takes an average of a day a week with busier periods around Committee and Board meetings.

If you are passionate about making a significant impact and have the skills to drive us forward, we encourage you to apply for this important role. A profile of the job role is attached.

**All Board of Directors are required to:**

* Act in the best interest of LSA, making sure all decisions are in accordance with LSA’s charitable objectives as stated in our governing document.
* Regular attendance at Board meetings and Sub-Committees as required.
* Active contribution at Board meetings, preparing for meetings reviewing reports and minutes in advance of meetings.
* Act with due diligence taking care of LSA’s affairs ensuring the charity complies with the provisions of [The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/10/contents) and other relevant legislation.
* Apply relevant skills, working constructively with fellow Trustees and LSA team to achieve shared goals.
* Analyse risks and opportunities and take a balanced approach to both.

Further details of Charity Trustees responsibilities can be found on [OSCR guidance and good practice for Charity Trustees](https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/managing-a-charity-guidance/guidance-and-good-practice-for-charity-trustees/)

**Benefits of being a Board of Director**

* Support the third sector and a cause that you care about
* Build and share strategic experience and skills
* Develop and share your professional networks
* Develop and share skills and experience

**Application process**

Please complete the short application form addressing the following: -

* Your interest in becoming the Chair of LAS’s Board of Directors
* Details of two referees

Please submit the completed application form together with your CV to recruitment@lsa.org.uk

Please contact our Chief Executive Aaliya Seyal on 0141 353 3354 if you wish to discuss the role.

Your application will be considered by LSA’s Board’s Executive Committee with support from LSA Team. The Selection Panel will consider your interest in LSA’s objectives and the skills and experience you demonstrate in your application and CV. The Selection Panel will consider the areas of skills identified as important and complimentary for the Board to be run in an effective manner.

You may be invited to a discussion with the Selection Panel if your application is considered for appointment. References will be sought with prior permission.

The Board of Directors will consider the recommendations of the Selection Panel and is responsible for the final appointment of ‘Appointed Directors’.

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| LSA_Logo_short (Jpeg Interchange format) | **Board of Directors** **Application Form**  |

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| **Name** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Telephone number** |  |

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| 1. **In no more than 500 words please describe why you want to be a volunteer Director on the Board of Legal Services Agency.**
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| 1. **Details of two Referees**
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| **Name:**  | **Name:**   |
| **Job Title:**  | **Job Title:** |
| **Organisation:**  | **Organisation:** |
| **Address:** | **Address:** |
| **Contact Tele No.**  | **Contact Tele No.** |
| **Email address**  | **Email address** |
| **In what capacity does he/she know you?** | **In what capacity does he/she know you?** |
| References will be sought with prior permission.  |

**Please return the completed form to:** recruitment@lsa.org.uk