



RECOGNISED AS
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS

AWARDED BY MUSEUMS GALLERIES SCOTLAND
ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Recognition Committee

Candidate Pack



**Museums
Galleries
Scotland**

Supporting Scotland's Museums



Recognised Collection holder:

Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Fraserburgh

Foreword from the Chair of the Recognition Committee

The Recognition Scheme plays an important role in supporting Scotland's museums and galleries to care for, share and sustain collections of national significance that are held outside the national institutions. These collections are deeply rooted in communities across the country and contribute to our understanding of Scotland's culture, history and place in the world.

The Recognition Committee exists to ensure that the Scheme is applied with care, fairness and integrity. As Committee members, we are entrusted with making considered decisions about Recognised status, providing assurance to the Scottish Government, and offering strategic advice on how the Scheme can continue to serve the sector well in a changing environment.

Following a period of review and renewal, the Recognition Scheme has entered a new phase. The Committee is now focused not only on assessing applications and reviews, but also on supporting the longer-term development of the Scheme. This includes thinking carefully about organisational sustainability, public value, access and engagement, and the responsibilities that come with caring for nationally significant collections.

We are seeking to appoint three new Committee members at this important point in the Scheme's development. We are looking for individuals who bring relevant experience, sound judgement and a willingness to engage thoughtfully with complex information and differing perspectives. Prior experience of national committees can be helpful, but it is not essential. What matters most is a strong understanding of the value of museum collections, an appreciation of the public context in which decisions are made, and a commitment to collaborative and constructive decision making.

As Chair, I am committed to ensuring that the Committee operates in a way that is respectful, inclusive and well supported, and that all members can contribute fully to discussions and decisions. We believe that the strength of the Recognition Scheme is enhanced by a diversity of experience, background and viewpoint, and we warmly encourage applications from across Scotland and beyond.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role before applying, please contact Jacob O’Sullivan, Museum Development Manager at Museums Galleries Scotland, who will be happy to answer initial questions about the Committee and the application process. If you have any further questions, you are also very welcome to get in touch with me.

Chanté St Clair Inglis

Chair, Recognition Committee
Museums Galleries Scotland



Recognition Award Celebration:
Kilmartin Museum, 2019

How to Apply

We welcome applications from individuals with the skills, experience and interest to contribute to the work of the Recognition Committee.

The closing date for applications is Monday 20th March 2026 at twelve noon.

To apply, please complete the application form and submit it by email to Rachael Brewer, Executive Assistant, at rachaelb@museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk.

[The application form can be downloaded here.](#) If you have any access requirements or would prefer to submit your application in an alternative format, such as video or audio, please let us know. We are happy to discuss adjustments to support applicants to apply and demonstrate their skills and potential effectively.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role before applying, please contact [Jacob O'Sullivan, Museum Development Manager at Museums Galleries Scotland.](#) Jacob will be happy to answer initial questions about the Committee, its work and the application process. If you have any further questions, you are also very welcome to get in touch with the Chair of the Recognition Committee.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to take part in an online discussion, held via Microsoft Teams, during the week commencing 20th April 2026.

Museums Galleries Scotland is committed to ensuring that recruitment is fair and does not discriminate against any group. Applicants are asked to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, which is not used in the selection process and is not seen by the selection panel.

Details supplied as part of the application process will be held securely for administration purposes only and retained for six months following the conclusion of recruitment, after which they will be securely destroyed. Further information is available in the Museums Galleries Scotland privacy policy, which can be viewed on the MGS website.

[You can view the MGS privacy policy on our website.](#)

Recognised Collection holder:
The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum



The Recognition Committee

The Recognition Committee is an independent committee operating under approved Terms of Reference. It is responsible for decision making, oversight and strategic advice relating to the Recognition Scheme.

The Committee comprises a Chair and a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve members. One member is appointed as Deputy Chair.

Committee member term and annual commitment

Members are appointed for a four-year term and may serve a second term by agreement. All appointments are unremunerated, with reasonable travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed.

The Committee normally meets two to three times a year, with meetings held online or in person in Edinburgh. Where necessary, an additional meeting may be scheduled to focus on review or development of the Scheme. Members who are unable to attend meetings are expected to provide written comments on papers in advance.

Roles and Responsibilities

Committee members are responsible for attending and participating in Recognition Committee meetings and for making decisions on the awarding of Recognised status to new applicants. They also monitor and make recommendations on the scheduled review of Recognised status.

Members provide strategic advice on the operation and development of the Recognition Scheme and advise Museums Galleries Scotland on opportunities, risks and emerging issues affecting the Scheme and Recognised Collections.

The Committee has a role in monitoring organisational sustainability across Recognised Collections and in supporting the long-term resilience of the Scheme as a whole.

Committee members are encouraged to attend meetings and events involving holders of Recognised Collections, where appropriate, to support understanding of the Scheme in practice and to contribute to constructive dialogue across the sector.

Members are expected to act as advocates for the Recognition Scheme and Recognised Collections, promoting understanding of the Scheme within their professional networks and supporting sector engagement as appropriate.

Committee members are encouraged to express differing views within meetings and may ask for dissent to be recorded where they hold reservations about a decision. Once decisions are reached, members are expected to support them collectively.

Committee members are expected to participate actively in meetings, to engage fully with papers and evidence, and to contribute constructively to discussion and decision making. Where a member has a personal or professional interest in a matter under consideration, this must be declared, and the member will withdraw from that part of the discussion.

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a light pink polo shirt, is looking through a large, red-painted metal ring. The ring has several circular holes along its top edge. The background is a clear blue sky. A decorative graphic of white diagonal lines is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering the boy's face and the ring.

Recognised Collection holder:
Summerlee, North Lanarkshire

Who we are Seeking

We are seeking to appoint three new Committee members who can contribute effectively to the work of the Recognition Committee.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- Experience of contributing to boards, committees or senior advisory groups.
- An ability to analyse complex material and evidence to reach sound and balanced conclusions.
- A strong understanding of the value and potential of museum and gallery collections, and an appreciation of good practice in collections development, care, management or research.
- An understanding of the public sector or arm's length body context, and of the policy environment in which museums in Scotland operate
- The ability and willingness to represent and advocate for a national scheme with professionalism and integrity.

In addition to these core requirements, we are particularly keen to hear from applicants who bring experience in one or more of the following areas, reflecting the current and future needs of the Committee:

- Strategic collections care, conservation or collections management.
- Organisational sustainability, governance, finance or business planning.
- Public engagement, access, learning or social impact.
- Digital collections, research access or data.
- Experience of museum practice outside the central belt and/or from underrepresented collection types.

Equality, Diversity, and Access

Museums Galleries Scotland and the Recognition Committee are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We believe that our work is stronger when it reflects a wide range of experiences, perspectives and backgrounds.

We encourage applications from suitably experienced individuals regardless of age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief, marital status, pregnancy or maternity. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments and to supporting access requirements to ensure that Committee members are able to participate fully.

Alternative application formats are welcomed, and meetings are held online wherever possible to support accessibility.



Recognised Collection holder:
The Scottish Football Museum

Background to the Recognition Scheme

The Recognition Scheme celebrates, promotes and invests in museum and gallery collections of national significance that are held outside the nationally funded museums in Scotland.

The Scheme is owned by the Scottish Government and is administered by Museums Galleries Scotland, the national development body for the museum sector. It provides a strategic framework through which nationally significant collections in local authority, independent, university and other non-national museums are identified, supported and promoted. At present, fifty-one collections across Scotland hold Recognised status.

In response to the age of the Scheme and the significantly changed context in which museums now operate, a full review of the Recognition Scheme was undertaken during 2022 to 2024. The review considered how the Scheme could better reflect current sector priorities and challenges, including sustainability, resilience, access, engagement and partnership working. The recommendations of the review were approved by the Scottish Government in 2024 and are now being implemented.

The Recognition Scheme has reopened to new applications and is moving into an active phase of delivery. The Recognition Committee plays a central role in ensuring that the Scheme operates effectively, transparently and in line with its objectives.

Objectives of the Recognition Scheme

Organisations that hold Recognised Collections of National Significance are required to commit to meeting the objectives of the Scheme.

The objectives are to advocate for and raise awareness and appreciation of Recognised Collections of National Significance, maximising their potential to celebrate Scotland's culture and heritage locally, nationally and internationally.

They are also to protect and secure the future of these collections by raising standards in collections care and management and increasing knowledge and understanding.

The Scheme seeks to use Recognised Collections to support the sustainability of the museums that hold, care for and exhibit them.

It aims to inspire and enable access to, public engagement with, learning and research about Recognised Collections.

Finally, it supports holders of Recognised Collections to increase their contribution to the wider sector through ambition, collaboration and partnership working.

Annual Returns and Status Reviews

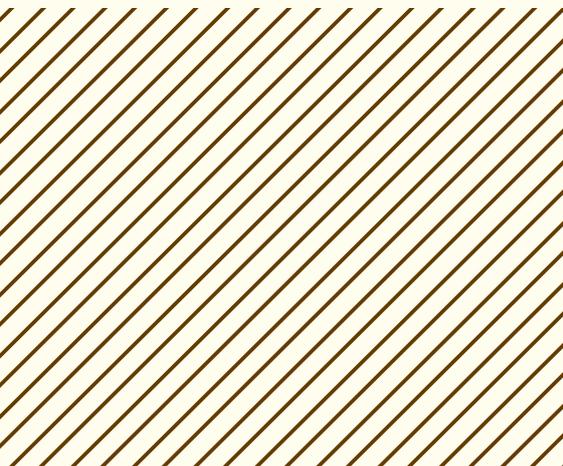
Holders of Recognised Collections of National Significance are required to engage in ongoing assurance and review as part of the Recognition Scheme.

Recognised Collection holders submit annual returns to Museums Galleries Scotland, providing information on collections care, access, engagement, organisational sustainability and progress against the objectives of the Scheme. These annual returns support monitoring of the health and impact of Recognised Collections over time.

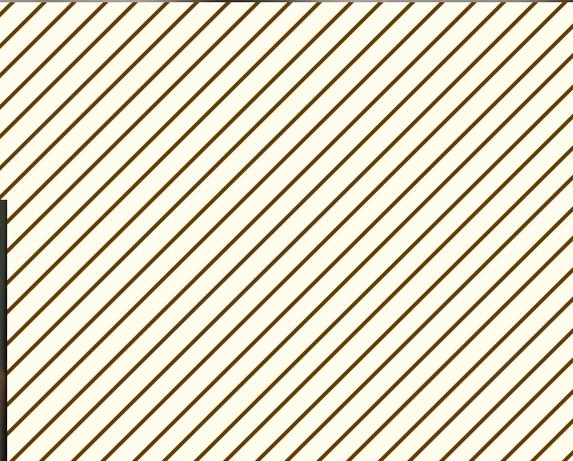
In addition, the status of each Recognised Collection is formally reviewed on a five year cycle. These scheduled status reviews provide a more in depth assessment of continued national significance, stewardship and public value, and may result in recommendations relating to the continuation, suspension or removal of Recognised status.

The Recognition Committee plays a central role in considering evidence arising from annual returns and five year reviews, alongside expert advice, and in making decisions or recommendations in line with the Scheme's objectives and approved Terms of Reference.

Recognised Collection holder:
Orkney Museum



Recognised Collection holder:
Wardlaw Museum, St Andrews



Further Information

Further information about Museums Galleries Scotland, the Recognition Scheme, and the wider policy context can be found on the following webpages.

[Museums Galleries Scotland website](#)

[Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

[Recognition Scheme - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

[Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)

[Delivering Change - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)



MGS is committed to progressive changes across our ways of working and to continuous improvement. We are proud to have achieved or signed up to the following organisational accreditations and commitments.



Proud partner in
reducing the Disability
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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
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