

29 April 2022

**New CEO at Environmental Standards Scotland**  
***ESS announces the appointment of the new permanent CEO***

Mark Roberts has been appointed as the new permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS).

Mark is currently an Audit Director in Audit Scotland. He has previously worked at the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). He has a PhD in environmental science.

Brendan Callaghan, the current Interim Chief Executive Office who focused on the set-up and establishment of ESS, will return to his role as Head of Operational Delivery at Scottish Forestry.

Jim Martin, Chair of ESS, said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Brendan Callaghan for his commitment and hard work in getting ESS operationally and strategically established. I am delighted that Mark Roberts will now take-up the permanent CEO position, bringing with him an in-depth understanding of environmental practice, alongside his invaluable oversight experience across a range of Scottish public authorities."

Speaking about his appointment, Mark Roberts said: "I'm very pleased to be joining Environmental Standards Scotland. ESS has an important part to play in ensuring that Scotland's environmental laws work effectively. I look forward to building on all the work done to date and making ESS a strong part of Scotland's environmental governance."

Brendan Callaghan, interim CEO, ESS said: "Now that ESS is up, running, and on its way to full operational capacity, I'm pleased to be handing over to the new CEO, Mark Roberts, to guide the next steps and help ESS achieve it's potential. I'm proud to have been part of the outstanding transition team that successfully established ESS and grateful for their support and dedication over the last year."

**-ENDS-**

**About the recruitment process:**

Mark Roberts was confirmed in this post by the Chair of ESS Jim Martin following a fair and open competition in accordance to the Civil Service Commission's principles.

A formal start date is yet to be confirmed while details are finalised.

**About Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS):**

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) began its formal operations on 1 October 2021, as part of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, following the UK's departure from the European Union. ESS is responsible for ensuring Scotland's public authorities, including government and its agencies, are compliant with environmental law.

ESS is independent of Scottish Government, but accountable to the Scottish Parliament. In its role, ESS will scrutinise public authorities' compliance with environmental law, the effectiveness of these laws and the way they are implemented and applied and has statutory powers to act where required.

**For more information, visit:** [environmentalstandards.scot](https://environmentalstandards.scot)

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