



NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY WEEK 2026 SCOTTISH PROGRAMME

Strengthening Productivity Across Scotland: Purpose, Innovation and Place

[#NationalProductivityWeek](#)



A Message from Professor Andy Schofield for Productivity Week 2026



Productivity remains central to Scotland's economic future, and this year's discussion comes at a particularly important time. Against this backdrop, I am proud that the Scotland Productivity Forum at the University of Glasgow is once again leading Scotland's National Productivity Week, convening a national conversation that is both timely and essential.

We are delighted that the University of Glasgow will be contributing to the week for the third year running, reinforcing its role as a trusted convener and catalyst for progress. In a fast-changing global economy, productivity is not about working longer hours; it is about creating greater value from our people, ideas and resources in ways that are sustainable and inclusive.

Now more than ever, partnership and collaboration are vital to addressing the challenges facing Scotland's economy and society. Bringing together governments, businesses, universities and communities, an approach championed by the Productivity Forum, is fundamental to building a resilient, innovative and fairer Scotland. From the cost-of-living crisis to global conflict and climate change, the scale and complexity of these challenges demand partnership, innovation and sustained long-term investment.

This year's theme of purpose, innovation and place sits at the heart of the University's mission. Productivity is most effective when it delivers tangible benefits for the economy, society and the environment. Innovation is the means through which research, policy and practice are translated into real-world impact. The University of Glasgow is translating world-leading research into commercial opportunity, particularly in life sciences and quantum technologies, while also championing the adoption of existing technologies and better management practices to support productivity across the economy.

Place is fundamental. As an anchor institution, the University is helping to drive inclusive regional growth through initiatives in the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID), delivered with Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise, supporting investment, jobs and opportunity in communities like Govan and Linthouse.

As we develop our next ten-year strategy, the University of Glasgow remains focused on deepening impact and transforming lives. During National Productivity Week, the Productivity Forum will continue to lead constructive conversations on how collaboration can deliver better jobs, stronger businesses and thriving communities.

We are proud to play our part in building a more dynamic, inclusive and productive Scotland for present and future generations.

Professor Andy Schofield
Principal and Vice Chancellor
University of Glasgow

Strengthening Productivity Across Scotland: Purpose, Innovation and Place

Scotland's Productivity Week 2026 arrives at a pivotal moment. In a rapidly changing global economy shaped by technological transformation, demographic shifts and ongoing shocks, productivity is more than an economic metric. It reflects how effectively Scotland turns talent, ideas and resources into prosperity and wellbeing. This week offers a chance to consider how purpose, innovation and place can strengthen productivity nationwide.

Purpose must sit at the heart of this journey. Productivity is not about longer hours but smarter work and greater value. For Scotland, that means aligning economic performance with fair work, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. Organisations with a clear sense of purpose consistently outperform others. When employees see how their work contributes to meaningful outcomes – from clean energy to resilient communities – engagement and performance rise. Purpose-driven leadership is already making a difference. Scotland's transition to net zero is creating new industries in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and green finance. Businesses that combine commercial ambition with social and environmental responsibility show that productivity and purpose reinforce one another. By investing in skills, fair work and employee empowerment, organisations unlock the creativity that drives sustainable productivity.

Innovation converts purpose into measurable gains. Scotland has a long history of innovation, from the industrial revolution to today's digital and life sciences sectors. Leading universities and emerging clusters in fintech, space and precision medicine continue to build global recognition. Yet innovation is not limited to high-tech fields; productivity often grows through better use of existing technologies, redesigned processes and a culture of continuous improvement. Digital adoption remains a major opportunity. Data, automation and AI can enhance output and quality across manufacturing, healthcare, construction and the public sector. But technology alone is insufficient. Innovation thrives where leadership encourages experimentation, intelligent risk-taking and lifelong learning. SMEs, the backbone of Scotland's economy, must be supported to innovate, collaborate and scale.

Place also matters. Scotland's productivity is shaped by the strengths of its cities, towns and rural communities – from Aberdeen's energy expertise to Dundee's creative industries and Edinburgh's financial clusters. Strengthening productivity requires empowering local ecosystems and connecting businesses, universities and civic institutions around shared priorities. Reliable transport, high-speed broadband and vibrant town centres enable businesses to thrive and talent to flourish. Equally important is nurturing a sense of belonging and opportunity across all communities. Inclusive regional growth ensures that productivity gains translate into higher living standards, reducing inequality and enhancing resilience.

As Scotland looks ahead, the challenge is to turn ambition into action. By uniting purpose, innovation and place, Scotland can build a more dynamic, inclusive and sustainable economy. Productivity is the pathway to better jobs, stronger businesses and thriving communities. During Productivity Week, we can reaffirm our commitment to working together across sectors and regions to build a more productive Scotland for generations to come.

27th April 2026 | Scotland Productivity Week, Day 1

Smart Rural Scotland: Productivity, Innovation and Regional Prosperity

Location: Online: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/327969993837639?p=OuJvk5zX7cZdbxwual>
(Passcode: mH33kT92)

Time: 10am – 12 noon

How can businesses in the Highlands and Islands use innovative workplace practices, digital technologies, and data to strengthen performance and improve productivity? Join the Productivity Institute's Scotland Forum for an online workshop, focused on challenges and opportunities unique to businesses in the Highlands and Islands.

This workshop explores how digital technologies, workplace practices, and data-driven approaches can support productivity in rural and island business environments. Discussions will focus on what works in practice, recognising the realities businesses face, including infrastructure constraints, workforce challenges, energy pressures, and changing regional conditions.

Bringing together business, research, and applied expertise, the session provides grounded insights into how innovation and technology can support efficiency, resilience, and long-term performance.

Contributors include:

- Gillian Galloway, *Head of Innovation and Technology, Highlands and Islands Enterprise*
- Alan Ritchie, *Senior Manager of Innovation, SSEN Transmission*
- Eleonora Vanello, *Head of Peer Works, Prosper*
- Bridgette Wessels, *Professor of Sociology and Academic Lead, Productivity Institute Scotland Forum*
- Anna Clover, *Research Associate, University of Glasgow*

The workshop will include

Short expert presentations
Audience Q and A
Break out discussions

Participants Will Gain

Practical insights into how digital technologies can support business performance
Examples of innovation and workplace practices suited to rural and island contexts
Ideas for strengthening efficiency, resilience, and long-term performance
Insights into recruitment practices and employee retention in low population density areas

Who Should Attend

- Business owners, founders, and directors working in the Highlands and Islands
- Senior managers and team lead
- Those responsible for strategy, people management, or business development

Agenda items:

10:00 – 10:05	Opening, welcome and introduction <i>Eleonora Vanello</i>
10:05 – 10:15	Scene-setting – productivity for rural prosperity <i>Bridgette Wessels and Anna Clover</i>
10:15 – 10:25	Productivity in the highlands and islands <i>Gillian Galloway</i>
10:25 – 10:35	Innovation strategies and rural technology use <i>Alan Ritchie</i>
10:35 – 10:45	Housing, place-based investment and <i>Scottish National Investment Bank speaker and/or Anna Clover</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Group Discussion and Q&A

28th April 2026 | Scotland Productivity Week, Day 2

Enhancing Productivity in Scotland's City Regions

Location: Adam Smith Business School, Room 383, University of Glasgow

Time: 10am – 12 noon.

As businesses navigate workforce pressures, infrastructure constraints, and rapidly changing markets, how can businesses and entrepreneurs in Scotland's city regions strengthen performance and secure long-term growth? As part of Scotland Productivity Week 2026, the Productivity Institute Scottish Forum invites attendees to a speaker panel and workshop addressing how businesses can respond to city region challenges and opportunities through strategy, innovation, and workplace practices.

Contributors include:

- Michael Cusack, *Head of Sustainability, ACS Clothing*
- Ian Taylor, *Independent consultant and researcher*
- Dominic Dowling, *Group Manager for Business Growth, Glasgow City Council*
- Anna Clover, *Research Associate, University of Glasgow*
- Andrew Robertson, *Intelligence Hub Manager, Glasgow City Region*
- David McCollum, *Senior Lecturer, University of St. Andrews*

This roundtable will include:

Insights from business, policy, and research perspectives

Panel discussions bringing together business, research and policy perspectives

Breakout groups focused on real world challenges and business experiences

Participants will gain:

Insight into how city region dynamics influence business performance

Practical examples of innovation and productivity strategies from city region businesses

Ideas for responding to workforce and skills challenges

A clearer understanding of regional opportunities and constraints

Who should attend:

- Business owners, founders, directors, senior managers and team leaders
- working Scotland's city regions
- Professionals responsible for strategy, people management, or business development operating in Scotland's city regions.
- Professionals working in areas of economic strategy, innovation, and business growth.
- Those interested in the future growth of Scotland's city regions.

Agenda items:

10:00 - 10:05	Welcome and introduction <i>Bridgette Wessels</i>
10:05 – 10:15	Purpose in business; insights from the Glasgow city region <i>Anna Clover</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Purpose and productivity: A Glasgow business' perspective <i>Michael Cusack</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Regional level purpose partnerships <i>Ian Taylor & David McCollum</i>
10:45 – 11:00	The role of entrepreneurship in city-region level productivity <i>Dominic Dowling</i>
11:00 – 11:15	Innovation and intelligence as a driver of city-region level productivity <i>Andrew Robertson</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Roundtable – Productivity in Scotland's City Regions

Innovation-Driven Productivity: Clusters, Technology and Growth

Location: Adam Smith Business School, Room 383, University of Glasgow

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Join leaders from Scotland's high-tech sectors for a session on how innovation, technology adoption, and cluster development can drive productivity growth across the economy.

This event will explore findings from recent research into "productivity powerhouses," highlighting the characteristics of high-performing firms and the conditions that enable innovation to translate into measurable productivity gains.

Contributors include:

- Daniel Williams, *Research Associate, University of Glasgow & The Productivity Institute*
- Pawel Gaska, *Data Analyst, University of Glasgow & The Productivity Institute*
- Elaine Morrison, *Mission Director (Productivity), Scottish Enterprise*
- Paul Sheerin, *CEO, Scottish Engineering*
- John Finch, *Professor of Marketing (Management), University of Glasgow*
- Xiang Li, *Senior Lecturer in Management and Professional Development, University of Glasgow*
- Laura Lawler and Amy Nelson, *People Business Partner and Culture Lead(s), Booth Welsh*
- Gennaro Strazullo, *Industry Engagement Manager, SECRA University of Glasgow*

The roundtable will feature:

Short presentations from sector leaders

Case studies from Scotland's high-tech clusters

A panel discussion exploring barriers and opportunities

Workshop-style discussion to support practical application

Participants will leave with evidence-based insights and practical ideas for strengthening productivity within their own organisations and across Scotland's high-value sectors.

Who should attend:

Business leaders, technology practitioners, policymakers, and organisations working in or alongside Scotland's high-tech industries.

Agenda items

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|---------------|--|
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Innovation-driven productivity, introduction and overview
<i>Daniel Williams and Pawel Gaska</i> |
| 14:10 – 14:25 | Innovation-led institutions
<i>Paul Sheerin</i> |
| 14:25 – 14:40 | Productivity powerhouses
<i>Elaine Morrison</i> |
| 14:40 – 14:55 | Fintech, innovation calls and productivity pathways
<i>Professor John Finch, Dr Xiang Li</i> |
| 14:55 – 15:15 | Building productive cultures through change
<i>Laura Lawler and Amy Nelson</i> |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Innovation partnerships in academia and industry
<i>Gennaro Strazullo</i> |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Roundtable and group discussion |

29th April 2026 | Scotland Productivity Week, Day 3

Turning data into productivity: a practical workshop on productivity

Location: Smart Data Foundry Room 4.3, Edinburgh Futures Institute, The University of Edinburgh, 1 Lauriston Place, EH3 9EF

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Increasing productivity involves fostering employee engagement and supporting employee wellbeing to boost economic growth. One of the key tools at our disposal to improving economic wellbeing is a growing economy with which people can engage productively - and where the benefits of growth are well distributed across the country.

However, UK productivity has undergone a prolonged slow down - barely recovering to above the levels seen at the 2008 financial crash. The UK is in the bottom half of OECD nations for productivity, and even within the UK there are huge regional variations, with London and Edinburgh far outperforming the national average.

At the same time, the data used to produce the official statistics from which government policy is developed and made is challenged by declining participation rates, a lack of representativeness across regions, industries and workers, and timeliness.

This interactive session, led by the Smart Data Foundry, will explore how alternative data sources can be used to enhance official statistics, support better policy decisions, and equip researchers and data scientists interested in productivity with new insights and tools to understand this critical facet of our economy.

We will cover use cases for financial data, research already underway, novel approaches to official statistics and how to use smart data to understand the impacts of economic changes in near real-time.

This session is aimed at researchers, think tanks, economists, and policymakers.

Contributors include

- Bridgette Wessels, *Professor of Sociology and Academic Lead, Productivity Institute Scotland Forum*
- Gordon Baggott, *Chief Data Scientist, Smart Data Foundry*
- Magdalena Getler, *Head of Research Growth, Smart Data Foundry*
- Rui Cardoso, *Head of Public Engagement, Smart Data Foundry*

Agenda items:

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Welcome and introduction
<i>Bridgette Wessels</i> |
| 10:10 – 12:00 | Turning data into action: a practical workshop on data and productivity
<i>Gordon Baggott, Magdalena Getler and Rui Cardoso</i> |

Financing Women’s Futures: Equitable Investment and Crowdfunding

Location: My Edinburgh – The Bakery. 18 Brunswick Street Lane, Edinburgh EH7 5JG

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Join us for a roundtable on how equitable investment models can help women-led enterprises grow, scale, and drive inclusive productivity.

This roundtable explores how more equitable investment models, including crowdfunding, can unlock the potential of women-led enterprises and support productive, scalable businesses. Contributors from finance, policy, and academia will examine crowdfunding alongside traditional investment approaches and consider transatlantic opportunities to support women entrepreneurs.

The discussion will focus on practical challenges of scaling—skills, capability, and business development—and how financial systems can better support inclusive productivity growth. By linking access to finance with long-term business performance, the roundtable will highlight the role of equitable investment in building a more resilient economy.

The session will feature:

- Presentations from enterprise experts

- A roundtable conversation on scaling, skills, and capability development
- Discussion exploring investment challenges and opportunities

Participants will leave with practical insights into how equitable investment can support women-led businesses and strengthen Scotland's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Who should attend

Business leaders, investors, policymakers, enterprise support organisations, and those working on women's entrepreneurship or inclusive economic growth.

Contributors include

- Bridgette Wessels, *Professor of Sociology and Academic Lead, Productivity Institute Scotland Forum*
- Daniel Williams, *Research Associate, University of Glasgow*
- Carolyn Currie MBE MCBI, *Chief Executive, Women's Enterprise Scotland*
- Speaker, *Scottish National Investment Bank*
- Jennifer MacKenzie, *Co-Founder, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)*

Agenda items

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|---------------|--|
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Welcome and introduction
<i>Bridgette Wessels</i> |
| 14:10 – 14:25 | Crowdfunding: Alternative financing routes for female entrepreneurs
<i>Daniel Williams and Carolyn Currie MBE MCBI</i> |
| 14:25 – 14:40 | Women, entrepreneurship and investment
<i>Scottish National Investment Bank</i> |
| 14:40 – 14:55 | Business development, scaling and skills
<i>Jennifer MacKenzie</i> |
| 14:55 – 15:10 | Transatlantic opportunities and unlocking women's economic potential
<i>Carolyn Currie MBE MCBI</i> |
| 15:10 – 15:20 | Refreshment break |
| 15:20 – 16:00 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A |

30th April 2026 | Scotland Productivity Week, Day 4

Life sciences in Dundee: Investments, skills and internationalization

Location: Life Sciences Innovation Hub, 5 James Lindsay Place, Dundee DD1 5JJ

Time: 12.45am – 4pm

Join Peer Works, Prosper and the Productivity Institute, supported by Invest in Dundee, Bio Dundee and the Scottish Cities Alliance, for a half-day event exploring how the life sciences sector can enhance productivity through innovation, talent, and high-growth opportunities.

In this half day event, we will explore how Dundee can attract and retain life sciences businesses. We will hear from an international case study about challenges and opportunities of running a life sciences business in Switzerland, followed by a fireside chat with Scottish-based business, and a panel discussion to understand how to strengthen productivity from investments, skills and

internationalisation.

While the event is primarily tailored for businesses and stakeholders in the life sciences sector, we welcome attendees from other industries who are interested in investing in Dundee.

Contributors include

- Mark Cook, *Life sciences industry leader and group co-chair*
- Erik van den Berg, *CEO, Memo Therapeutics AG*
- Bridgette Wessels, *Professor of Sociology and Academic Lead, Productivity Institute Scotland Forum*
- Prof. Sir. Mike Ferguson, *University of Dundee*
- Duncan Robbie, *Site Manager, Abbott*
- Gillian Reid, *SMAS Team Leader, Scottish Enterprise*
- Gail Singer, *Project Manager, Science Futures*
- Lara McGrath, *Export Finance Manager, UK Export Finance*

Agenda Items

12:45 – 13:15	Registration
13:15 – 13:20	Welcome <i>Eleonora Vanello</i>
13:20 – 13:30	Introduction and scene-setting <i>Mark Cook</i>
13:30 – 13:55	International case study and Q&A <i>Erik Van den Berg</i>
13:55 – 14:05	Unlocking regional productivity in Scotland <i>Bridgette Wessels</i>
14:05 – 14:15	Why invest in Dundee?
14:15 – 15:00	Fireside chat on Life Sciences and Scottish Business <i>Prof. Sir Mike Ferguson and Duncan Robbie</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Refreshment break
15:15 – 16:00	Panel discussion <i>Gillian Reid, Gail Singer and Lara McGrath</i>

1st May 2026 | Scotland Productivity Week, Day 5

Wake up and learn: Purpose in business – a practical guide

Location: Copthorne Hotel, Aberdeen

Time: 09:00 – 11:00

Join Prosper, Peer Works and the Productivity Institute for the launch of the 'Purpose in Business' guide and to hear from the inspiring founders of Brilliantly Brave.

Join us for a morning session where we will launch the 'Purpose in Business' guide, designed to help businesses embed purpose into everyday workplace practices to support performance, resilience and productivity.

We will also hear from Stuart Cox and Jean Pryde, co-founders of Moray based Brilliantly Brave, a design led greeting card brand with purpose. Every card sold contributes to supporting mental health training and peer support initiatives across Scotland.

There will be time for networking, questions and for inspiration!

Contributors include:

- Eleonora Vanello, *Head of Peer Works, Prosper*
- Anna Clover, *Research Associate, University of Glasgow*
- Stuart Cox and Jean Pryde, *Co-founders, Brilliantly Brave*

Agenda Items:

09:00 - 09:30	Registrations and Networking
09:30 – 09:35	Introduction <i>Eleonora Vanello</i>
09:30 - 10:00	Purpose in business guide launch <i>Anna Clover</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Purpose in practice, Brilliantly Brave <i>Stuart Cox and Jean Pryde</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Q&A and group discussion

Rural productivity and sustainable growth

Location: The Crichton Trust, Dumfries and Galloway

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Join the Productivity Institute and the Crichton Trust to explore how rural Scottish businesses can strengthen their performance and long-term growth amid mounting pressures.

Under growing infrastructure constraints, workforce pressures and changing market conditions, how can rural Scottish businesses strengthen performance and experience long-term growth?

This event centres around businesses in the rural South of Scotland, who can experience a practical, interactive demonstration and workshop on smart rural energy use, improving efficiency, resilience and business performance.

Participants will gain knowledge about improving efficiency and resource use; Insight into sustainable energy strategies to support cost management; Examples of innovation suited to rural businesses; Strategies for strengthening resilience and long-term performance.

This two-hour demonstration and workshop are designed for:

- Rural SMEs and family-run businesses
- Agricultural, land-based, tourism, manufacturing and rural service businesses
- Business owners, managers and operational leaders
- Businesses interested in sustainability, innovation and productivity improvement

Contributors include:

- Dr Sonam Norbu, *Research Associate, Autonomous Systems, Connectivity, University of Glasgow*
- Dr Benoit Couraud, *Research Associate, Autonomous Systems, Connectivity, University of Glasgow*
- Jennifer Challinor, *Head of Research and Development, The Crichton Trust*
- Gwilym Gibbons, *CEO, The Crichton Trust*

Agenda Items:

10:00 – 10:15	Introduction, welcome and scene-setting <i>Gwilym Gibbons</i>
10:15-10:30	Smart rural data usage and the data observatory <i>Jennifer Challinor</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Tour of the Crichton Trust
10:30 – 11:15	Live demonstration – smart rural energy use <i>Dr Sonam Norbu and Dr Benoit Couraud</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Workshopping and Q&A

SPEAKERS (Listed in Agenda Order)



Gillian Galloway
(Highlands and Islands
Enterprise)

Gillian is currently the Head of Innovation and Technology at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and is responsible for the delivery of innovation, manufacturing and digital support to businesses across the North of Scotland. Gillian started out in Pharmacology research at the University of Dundee before moving to Inverness where her work in Life Sciences continued, first in medical device development at LifeScan Scotland Ltd, then as Project Director at the city's Centre for Health Science and more recently working in digital health research at University of Aberdeen.



Alan Ritchie
(SSEN Transmission)

Alan is the Senior Innovation Manager and leads a dynamic team of innovators within SSEN Transmission. He is passionate about tackling climate change, and in his role, he focuses on influencing impactful change that can lead to the discovery of new innovative solutions to support the energy system transition. Alan is responsible for defining the innovation vision and strategy and executes this through a rigorous process that enables a consistent approach to network innovation.



Eleonora Vanello
(Peer Works)

Eleonora is Peer Work's hunter-gatherer!

Her role is to connect people and provide places where they can learn from each other's experiences. To do that she hunts for inspirational leaders who share their stories, explaining the challenges and achievements of running an organisation. Eleonora is also skilled at gathering people from all sorts of backgrounds who want to learn from those stories and apply their new knowledge to be able to work better and smarter



Professor Bridgette Wessels
(University of Glasgow)

Bridgette is the academic lead for the Productivity Institute's Scotland Forum and a professor of sociology at the University of Glasgow School of Social and Political Sciences.

Her research focuses on social exclusion and digital divides, financial exclusion and the e-economy, social media and political inequality, health inequalities and telehealth, welfare services and (digital) identity, local journalism and inclusion and e-policing, ethnicity and communities. She is also addressing the developing uses of open and big data in open services and data-driven science.



Dr Anna Clover
(University of Glasgow)

Anna is a Research Associate at the University of Glasgow with a background in sociology. She has contributed to ESRC-funded projects on purpose-driven businesses and regional productivity in Scotland. Her research focuses on how organisations embed purpose in practice, and how regional factors shape productivity, including investment, innovation, workplace practices, and sustainability.



Andrew Robertson
(Glasgow City
Intelligence Hub)

Andrew is the lead for the Glasgow City Region Policy Lab, chairs the Regional Economic Intelligence Working Group, and is a committee member of the Scotland Productivity Forum.

A key component of his work has been supporting the team so it can be responsive to the immediate needs of decisions makers across the regional partnership. Simultaneously, he has focused on providing the team with capacity and skills to provide evidence on how best to tackle the Region's Grand Challenges.



Michael Cusack
(ACS Clothing)

Michael is Chief Sustainability Officer at ACS Clothing Ltd., Europe's leading circular fashion infrastructure provider. He leads the development of scalable systems that enable rental, resale, repair and recycling at industrial scale, helping brands, retailers and public sector organisations transition from linear to circular models. With a background in engineering, HR, and sustainability,

Michael works at the intersection of innovation, operations and social impact — integrating AI, automation and data to decarbonise manufacturing while creating inclusive employment opportunities. He is a passionate advocate for building the infrastructure required to make circular fashion work in practice, not just in theory.



Dominic Dowling
(Glasgow City Council)

Dominic leads a team of business specialists who support new and established enterprises—including social enterprises and co-operatives—to start, grow, and develop. His team provides guidance on business planning, accessing finance, marketing, premises, recruitment, and market development, working closely with partners across the public, private, academic, and third sectors to ensure businesses can access the support they need.

Dominic's team has also launched a new Green Business Support programme, helping local companies reduce their carbon footprint, build climate resilience, and progress towards net zero



Ian Taylor
(The RSA and University
of Birmingham)

Ian is an academic and consultant who conducts research into economic and social topics, with a specific interest in regional economic development, cross-sector collaboration, and the policy and practice of responsible business.

Currently an Associate at the City-Region Economic Development Institute based at the Department of Strategy and International Business at the University of Birmingham, Ian has previously held fellowships at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government and at the University of Manchester's Alliance Business School. His academic work builds on a decade of commercial and technical management roles in the energy industry. Ian is also a board member of the Scotland Productivity Forum.



Dr David McCollum
(University of St Andrews)

David is a Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of St Andrews and a member the ESRC Centre for Population Change.

David's research interests include the welfare state, labour market change and labour migration.



Daniel Williams
(University of Glasgow)

Daniel is a Research Associate at the Productivity Institute's Scotland Forum. He supports the Forum's research and knowledge exchange related activities, including conducting mixed-methods research, facilitating the forum's events and outreach across its network of ~600 Scottish businesses. His research includes contemporary papers on Scottish productivity relating to crowdfunding and finance for women-led businesses, unlocking regional productivity and Scotland's productivity challenges. He has also collaborated with the Scottish Government's Economic Development Directorate for the delivery of bespoke research into innovation-driven productivity in high-export sectors in Scotland.

Daniel is also actively involved with Junior Achievement Isle of Man, for whom he has commissioned research on employability among young people in rural and island communities.



Pawel Gaska
(University of Glasgow)

Pawel is a Data Analyst at The Productivity Institute (TPI) Scottish Forum. He supports the Forum's data-related activities, including data collection, data wrangling, and conducting a range of analyses and research on topics of interest to TPI. These include issues such as regional disparities in Scotland, challenges related to business scale-up, and business digitalisation.

Pawel is also actively involved in the School's Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team (SAT), where he contributes to improving the accessibility, clarity, and usefulness of data analysis.



Paul Sheerin
(Scottish Engineering)

Paul is Chief Executive of Scottish Engineering. He studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering at The University of Glasgow and joined Nuclear Electric in 1990 as part of the Sizewell 'B' project team.

After a period of working in the USA, he returned to Scotland and joined Polaroid at its Dumbarton base in 1996 and became Managing Director in 2005, then VP Global Operations of Polaroid's sunglass business until 2017. Paul is also part of Scottish Engineering's volunteer mentor group and through that enjoys opportunities to promote and support Enterprise, Engineering and Manufacturing opportunities for all.



Elaine Morrison
(Scottish Enterprise)

Elaine is a senior economic development leader who has spent almost four decades shaping how the public sector supports sustainable economic growth in Scotland.

Throughout her career, she has led bold and impactful strategies across governance, business growth, infrastructure, partnership working, research and development, and innovation, driven by a clear focus on creating the conditions for a stronger, more resilient economy.

Today, Elaine's focus is firmly on the ambition to help Scotland become more productive by increasing levels of capital investment.

Evidence clearly points to more productive businesses paying higher wages, keeping their people for longer and contributing meaningfully to the wellbeing of the nation.



**Professor John
Finch**
(University of
Glasgow)

John is Professor of Marketing at the University of Glasgow. His research examines innovation systems, evidence use and policy implementation, with particular emphasis on how organisations translate analysis into actionable decisions in complex public-sector settings. He leads multi-partner, externally funded programmes combining interdisciplinary research with sustained engagement with government, industry and civil society, including on evidence-informed infrastructure investment and innovation policy.

His publications include Research Policy, European Journal of Marketing, Marketing Theory, Industrial Marketing Management, and Journal of Business Research. He brings policy experience through a UK Government secondment on procurement-led innovation with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.



Dr Xiang Li
(University of Glasgow)

Xiang is a Senior Lecturer in Management and Professional Development, with a multi-disciplinary research background. Her current work focuses on professional education programme design, ESG leadership, business development, and internationalisation.

She has extensive experience in lean start-up methodology and agile project management. Currently, Xiang is leading the skills development workstream in the Innovate UK-funded Financial Regulation Innovation Lab.



Gordon Baggott
(Smart Data Foundry)

Gordon has spent over 20 years getting as much useful information out of data as he possibly can. With experience across healthcare, banking and insurance he has employed data science, machine learning (ML) and generative AI approaches to derive valuable insight from all kinds of data.

His domain expertise has been gained in epidemiology, clinical trials, cybersecurity, financial customer journeys, legal and compliance and cloud platform resilience. Gordon's specific areas of technical interest are in real-time ML and AI interventions, unsupervised learning, graph theory and user behaviour analysis.

He is also the co-founder and commissioning editor for the Business AI Alliance, a cross-party parliamentary group which is helping small and medium organisations to safely harness the power of AI and drive growth in the U



Magdalena Getler
(Smart Data Foundry)

A creative thinker and thoughtful leader with over 15 years of experience in open data advocacy, research and development, innovation, strategy, and technology, alongside a stellar research and evidence-gathering background. Magdalena has led research programmes and the design and development of products and services across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, as well as a startup environment (Smart Data Foundry, University of Edinburgh, Digital Curation Centre, BBC, Art Institute of Chicago).

Entrepreneurial and a fast learner, Magdalena has held leadership roles in the media, higher education, and finance sectors. She is an alumna of a prestigious Aurora women's leadership programme, selected from hundreds of applicants to represent the University of Edinburgh in 2018. As Head of Academic Engagement at SDF, Magdalena manages successful relationships with senior stakeholders across UK universities, government funding councils, and independent charitable foundations to change how accredited researchers access private sector financial data and use it to drive evidence-based policymaking and decision-making.



Rui Cardoso
(Smart Data Foundry)

Rui is the Head of Public Engagement for the Smart Data Foundry., where he leverages over a decade of experience in the public , private and academic sectors. At CivTech, Rui played a key role in driving digital transformation, developing challenge creation methodologies, and enhancing cross-sector collaboration

Rui now focuses on strengthening public sector engagement at the Smart Data Foundry. He is dedicated to harnessing near-real time private sector data to enhance evidence-based decision-making processes in the public sector.



Carolyn Currie MBE MCBI
(Women's Enterprise
Scotland)

Carolyn is Chief Executive of Women's Enterprise Scotland and a leading voice in women's entrepreneurship, economic empowerment, and gender-inclusive policy. Under her leadership, WES has championed evidence-based support for women-led businesses, including pioneering work on crowdfunding as an accessible finance route, developing guidance, training, and research to help founders navigate alternative investment models.

Carolyn has contributed to G20 policy papers, co-founded the UK Women's Enterprise Policy Group, and regularly advises government on closing the enterprise gender gap. Recognised with an MBE for services to women's entrepreneurship, she continues to drive systemic change across Scotland's business ecosystem.



Jennifer MacKenzie
(TEFL Org)

Jenifer is the co-founder of the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL Org), one of the world's most accredited providers of English-language teaching qualifications. Since launching the organisation in 2008 from a small shed in the Scottish Highlands, she has overseen its growth into an international training provider, supporting thousands of teachers around the world each year.

A former TEFL teacher herself, Jennifer brings deep experience in global education, digital learning, and entrepreneurial leadership. She is widely recognised as a champion of women-led business and has been instrumental in shaping the TEFL Org's mission to make high-quality, accessible teacher training available worldwide.



Eve Jones
(Scottish National
Investment Bank)

Eve Jones is an associate in strategic Engagement at the Scottish National Investment Bank, where she works across public, private, and third-sector partners to support the Bank's mission-led investment strategy. Her work focuses on building effective partnerships, shaping strategic communications, and advancing the Bank's commitment to delivering long-term, inclusive economic impact across Scotland.

Eve brings experience from regional development, community engagement, and impact-focused organisations, including previous roles with the Scottish Cities Alliance and Glasgow Council. Her background spans investment partnerships, local government collaboration, and purpose-driven programme delivery.



Mark Cook
(ILG)

Mark is the Industry Co-Chair of the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership group (ILG), helping to shape national strategy and strengthen the sector's global competitiveness. With over 25 years' experience across biologics, pharmaceutical, medical technology and consultancy, he brings deep expertise in market access, regulation, and the commercialisation of health technologies.

In his role at Medtronic, Mark leads work on strategy, government relations and the regulatory implications of major policy shifts. He also contributes to the Scottish Health technology Group Council.



Eric van den Berg
(Memo Therapeutics)

Eric is the CEO of Memo Therapeutics AG, bringing over 25 years of biotechnology leadership experience. He has led and grown multiple life sciences companies, completing more than 20 major transactions and raising over \$500 million in financing across his career.

Before joining Memo Therapeutics, he served as CEO of AM-Pharma for 12 years and remains on its board.



Gwilym Gibbons
(The Crichton Trust)

Gwilym is currently Chief Executive of The Crichton Trust, leading the organisation since 2018. He has championed a bold vision for a creative, low-carbon and socially connected campus in Dumfries. A recognised social-impact entrepreneur, he has held senior leadership roles across culture, heritage and rural innovation, including major capital developments and community-led regeneration projects.

Under his leadership, The Crichton Trust has strengthened its role as a hub for collaboration, wellbeing and sustainable regional growth. Gwilym will soon be taking up a new role as Chief Executive of Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, continuing his commitment to place-based innovation and public engagement.



Jennifer Challinor
(The Crichton Trust)

Jennifer is the Head of Research and Development at The Crichton Trust, where she leads the organisation's research agenda and drives innovation across its programmes, partnerships and strategic initiatives. Her work focuses on developing evidence-based approaches to place-based innovation, wellbeing and sustainable regional development.

With a background in organisational development, project delivery and cross-sector partnership working, Jennifer plays a key role in shaping the Trust's long-term vision and translating research insights into practical impacts.



Dr Sonam Norbu
(University of Glasgow)

Sonam obtained his Ph.D. in Energy and Electrical Engineering from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh in 2023. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from the College of Science and Technology, University of Bhutan (2007), and a Master of Engineering in Power Electronics and Drives from the Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, India (2010).

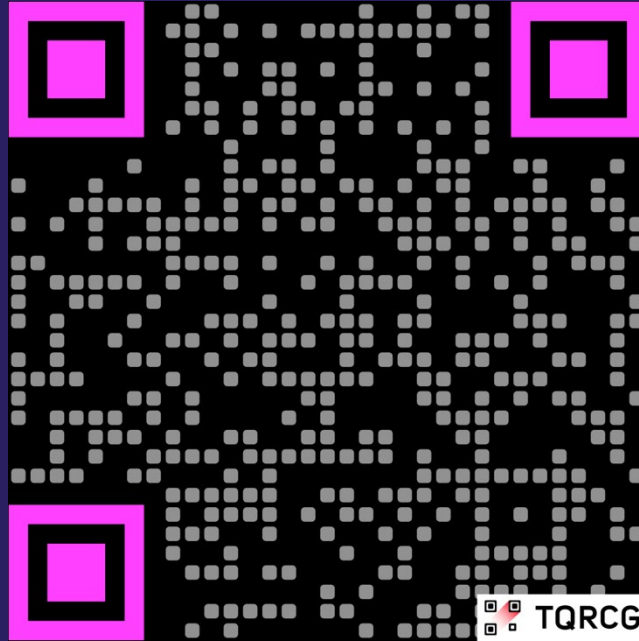
He is currently a Research Associate in the Smart Systems Group within the Autonomous Systems and Connectivity division at the James Watt School of Engineering, University of Glasgow. His research focuses on whole-system energy integration, smart local energy systems, energy communities, cyber-physical social energy systems, local electricity market solutions, and optimisation tools for renewable energy integration and smart grid operation.



Dr Benoit Couraud
(University of Glasgow)

Benoit received his engineering degree from Ecole Centrale de Lyon (2009), an M.Sc. degree in electrical engineering from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2011) and a PhD at Universite of Aix Marseille (2017). He is currently a research associate at the University of Glasgow, working on residential energy flexibility, energy communities and local electricity market solutions.

His research involves electrical grid modelling, AI, optimisation tools for renewable energy integration and smart grid solutions.



The 2026 Scottish Productivity Week promises to inspire collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation, offering actionable insights for businesses, policymakers, and stakeholders to unlock Scotland's productivity potential.