

DA Board Member report 2024

Board member name: Moi Ali

Devolved administration: Scotland

Summary of stakeholder engagement activities in 2024

My last report covered the period to the end of March 2024, so this is for just the remainder of 2024, which has been quieter than usual – as there has been no Board meeting in Scotland since the last report (the last one being in Edinburgh in September 2023).

The Better Workplace Culture for Patient Safety in Scotland event in October this year disappointingly did not go ahead due to lack of bookings. I had met with the team to suggest speakers for the event, and hopefully they can still be involved when the event is rescheduled in 2025.

I met with the recruitment specialists to discuss the devolved role and to suggest potential candidates to approach for the new member for Scotland. I also spoke with one of the candidates who wished to understand the role better (not the one eventually appointed). I was also involved in the full process for the recruitment of the new member for Northern Ireland, where I was able to bring to the panel the perspective of a devolved member, although quite appropriately I was not directly involved in the process for my own replacement.

Suggestions for PSA work priorities in relation to the Devolved Administration in 2025

I said earlier this year that the PSA needs to work hard to demonstrate its relevance to Scottish stakeholders in a country where health is devolved, and London-based organisations are often perceived to be out of touch with the issues of importance here (whether justified or not). We are a four-country organisation, but that is not always how we are seen north of the border. It will take intensive work to change that. This has definitely improved over the last three or so years, and the arrival of our new devolved members offers an opportunity to spotlight our work across all four nations of the United Kingdom.

It would be useful to meet Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, during 2025 and to note the upcoming elections to Holyrood in 2026.