Libraries NI Board Members

**Mr Neil Bodger**
Mr Bodger has been involved in managerial and company finance at senior manager or director level for over 30 years, and was a Senior Management Consultant in corporate financial reconstruction and subsequently Board Director of a German manufacturing company. He has worked as a Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committees in the public sector for 22 years and has been a Panel member of the Education Authority Appeals Tribunal for 19 years. He has experience in corporate governance, finance, strategic planning, human resources, marketing and public relations. Mr Bodger is currently a council member of the Social Care Council Northern Ireland, a Governor of South Eastern Regional College, Chair of its Audit Committee and a member of the Probation Board Northern Ireland and Chair of its Audit Committee.

**Alderman Thomas Burns**
Alderman Burns is a member of the Northern Local Commissioning Group, a committee of the Health and Social Care Board. In the past, he has served as a member of Safe Food Ireland and also completed several terms as a member of the Board of Governors of three local schools. He was previously a Chair of Crumlin Credit Union and also served as a member of the North Eastern Education and Library Board. Alderman Burns brings human resources management and project management skills and experience to the Board. He is a member of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and has served as a Councillor for the last 21 years.

**Councillor Alistair Cathcart**
Councillor Cathcart is a member of Ards and North Down Borough Council and has held roles on a number of committees including the Planning Committee, Finance Committee and the Environment Committee, through which he brings strategic direction and stakeholder engagement to the Board. He is also Governor at a primary school and a Director on the Board of the North Down Development Organisation, a local enterprise agency.

**Professor Bernard Cullen**
Chairperson of Libraries NI
Professor Cullen is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Queens University, Belfast, a Training Analyst and Fellow of the Institute of Psychoanalysis (London), and Director of Training of the Northern Ireland Psychoanalytic Society. He is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Parkanaur Residential College. A former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Queen’s, he has also been Chair of the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards, a member of the Public Service Commission, Vice-President of the Belfast and District Trades Union Council, President of the Irish Philosophical Society, President of the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations, Philosophy Consultant to the European Science Foundation Project on Social Justice, and Chair of the Ethics Committee of the British Confederation of Psychotherapists. Professor Cullen brings skills and experience in relation to equality and social inclusion, as well as considerable chair experience to Libraries NI.
COUNCILLOR GLENN FINLAY
Councillor Finlay is a member of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and has held roles on a number of committees including the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee, Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership. He is also Governor at a grammar school, Chairman of his political party’s local association and a Project Co-ordinator for a third sector organisation working with young men who are experiencing difficulties in life.

COUNCILLOR JULIE GILMOUR
Councillor Gilmour is a member of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. She is a member of the Operations committee, which works with council directors and officers to deal with a wide number of services in the Borough, the Peace IV Committee and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of a local primary school. In her past employment she has worked in sales and marketing, skills and experience of which she will bring to the Board.

COUNCILLOR CHERYL JOHNSTON
Councillor Johnston is a member of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, where she has experience of setting the strategic direction, and is the Office Manager for a MLA. As Chair of the Townscape Heritage Project she has experience of financial understanding, of identifying key issues and taking decisions to achieve effective use of resources.

COUNCILLOR GARATH KEATING
Councillor Keating is an experienced Councillor and qualified Solicitor, and brings a broad range of skills and knowledge to the Board having served on a variety of council and club committees. With a particular interest in matters of corporate governance and service delivery, he has substantial professional and civic experience to draw upon in assisting the Board shape library services for the future. He is a member of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council.
MRS DEIRDRE KENNY
Mrs Kenny was previously Director of Corporate Services, Director of Health Development and Director of Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation in various government departments. She was appointed to the Board of the Northern Ireland Police Fund by Department of Justice on 1 April 2016 for which there is no remuneration. She has experience of gender equality and anti-discrimination issues, and also brings governance and financial responsibility skills to the Board.

COUNCILLOR DONAL LYONS
Councillor Lyons is Director of the South Belfast Partnership Board and a National Director of Event Bar and Catering, a not for profit socially focused enterprise. Within Belfast City Council he has served on a range of committees including the People and Communities Committee. He has also served on the Boards of a number of organisations such as the Human Rights Consortium. Councillor Lyons brings financial management experience and skills to the Board.

COUNCILLOR CATHAL MALLAGHAN
Councillor Mallaghan works in the engineering sector and is a member of the Northern Local Commissioning Group for the Health and Social Care Board. He was the presiding councillor in Mid Ulster during its shadow year and subsequently served as Chair of Council. He serves as a school governor and previously served as Chair of the Irish Central Border Area Network. He is a member of the Mid Ulster PCSP, Chair of the Mid Ulster Council Planning Committee and sits on the flagship Connecting Pomeroy Project Board. Councillor Mallaghan brings experience of working on committees and strategic planning skills to the Board.

MRS WENDY OSBORNE OBE
Mrs Osborne is the former Chief Executive Officer for Volunteer Now and has worked within the voluntary and community sector for over 25 years. She is a past Chairperson of CO3 (Chief Officers' third sector) and Joint Chairperson of the Voluntary and Community Sector and Government Joint Forum. She brings experience of stakeholder engagement, strategic vision and good governance to the Board. She is a member of the NI Policing Board.

MR JOHN PETO
Mr Peto is the Director of Education at the Nerve Centre. With expertise in the digital, education and creative sectors, he has experience of engaging people to deliver solutions and drive change at social and community levels. He has served on a range of boards, trusts and committee's within the community and voluntary sector through which he has gained governance and financial oversight skills and experience.
MR HARRY REID
Mr Reid is a freelance social affairs writer, trainer in communications skills and Senior Partner at Purple Balloon, a niche producer of online educational courses. He previously held a range of editorial, public affairs and project development positions for a spectrum of charities and other not for profit organisations active in the equality, human rights and social inclusion spheres. Mr Reid brings strategic communication skills to the Board together with a deep interest in the potential of access to both the written word and digital skills to enhance the economic, social and political participation of members of marginalised groups.

MR KEN SMYTH
Boardroom Apprentice
Mr Smyth is the Senior Participation Officer with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and brings experience of child rights especially in relation to engaging with children and young people and ensuring their voice is heard in decisions that affect them. He will be attending the Board and Committee meetings until August 2020 as part of the Strictly Boardroom Scheme.

DR MARGARET WARD
Dr Ward is Honorary Senior Lecturer in History at Queen’s University, Belfast. She was Chief Executive of the Women’s Resource and Development Agency until her retirement in December 2013. She is a former Board member of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, the NI Rural Women’s Network, the Consumer Council and former Trustee of the National Museums Northern Ireland. She brings experience of equality and social inclusion issues, as well as strategic planning skills to the Board.

COUNCILLOR BILLY WEBB MBE JP
Councillor Webb is a member of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council where he serves on the Planning, Policy and Governance and Audit Committees. He is the former Chair and current Vice-President of the NI Hospice and Secretary of a housing association and charity. He is also a member of the NI Rent Assessment Panel and is a member of the Drainage Council. He was formerly employed by HMRC and brings a range of skills and experience relating to strategy, project and estate management, human resources and financial understanding to the Board.

MISS LINDA WILSON
Miss Wilson is a former Department of Education Board Member where she contributed to the corporate planning process, financial and performance management. She developed a new Early Years Learning Policy and has wide experience of policy development and governance across a range of NICS Departments. She has also been the Chair of project boards of several major capital projects through which she oversaw risk management and financial progress.