



3rd August 2015

Dear All

I am delighted to be able to announce formally the appointment of the new Principal Executive Officer for Scottish Language Dictionaries: **Dr Ruth O'Donovan**.

Ruth is currently Head of Language Content at Collins Learning, HarperCollins Publishers, Glasgow, having previously held roles at HarperCollins as Project Manager, Head of Bilingual Dictionaries, and Asset Development Manager. She has outstanding recent managerial experience within publishing, and an exceptional track-record in corpus work and the handling of linguistic data in a digital environment.

Before working for HarperCollins, Ruth was employed by Chambers Harrap, Edinburgh, as a Senior Corpus and Data Developer. She holds a first-class Honours degree in Linguistics from University College Cork, a Microsoft Ireland-supported MSc in computational linguistics from the University of Limerick, and a PhD – funded by the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology – from the National Centre for Language Technology, Dublin City University.

There was an exceptionally strong field of well-qualified applicants for the position, which became vacant on the retirement, after many years of selfless and distinguished service, of Dr Christine Robinson. I should like to put on record how truly grateful we are to all those who attended for interview, or who expressed an interest.

I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking the other members of the Appointing Committee: Jean Anderson, Liz Small and Jim Tough. I am particularly grateful to Jean, who has worked tirelessly during the 'interregnum' to support the SLD team, and indeed to all the staff at SLD who have carried out their duties magnificently during this time of transition.

Ruth takes up her new position with effect from 28th September 2015. We can all be very excited at the prospect of working with her as Scottish Language Dictionaries moves into the next phase in its development.

Yours sincerely,

(Prof) Jeremy Smith FEA FRSE
Convener, Board of Trustees, Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd

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