

On Point: CMS Scotland's Annual Business Conference 2024

Driving Scotland's Growth

Thursday 3 October 2024

Edinburgh International Conference Centre,
The Exchange, Morrison St, Edinburgh



Agenda

Full Agenda

- 8.30am** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9.15am** **Welcome**
Allan Wernham, Managing Director, CMS Scotland
- 9.20am** **Introduction**
Kirsty Wark, Broadcaster and Journalist
- 9.25am** **Economic overview**
Louise Hellem, Chief Economist, CBI
- 9.45am** **Skills for Today and Tomorrow**
Professor Mairi Spowage, Director, Fraser of Allander Institute
- James Withers, Author of the Independent Review of the Skills Delivery Landscape in Scotland and former CEO, Scotland Food and Drink*
- Audience questions*
- 10.30am** **Coffee Break**
- 11.00am** **In Conversation: Nisha Katona MBE, founder and CEO of Mowgli Street Food, author and presenter and Kirsty Wark**
- 11.30am** **Panel - Driving Scotland's Growth**
Chair – Kirsty Wark
- Jamie Grant – Barclays*
Susie Lind – Bluefloat Energy
Liam Middleton – University of Glasgow
Dame Susan Rice DBE - Forth Green Freeport
- 12.15pm** **In Conversation: The Rt Hon Lord Jack McConnell of Glenscorrodale and Kirsty Wark**
- 12.45pm** **Close**
Allan Wernham, Managing Director, CMS Scotland
- 12.50pm** **Finish followed by Lunch**

Meet our speakers

(In order of appearance)



Allan Wernham
CMS Scotland
Managing Director

Allan Wernham is Managing Director Scotland and is a partner in the Real Estate group based in Glasgow.

With over 25 years' experience, Allan specialises in major development and regeneration projects with a particular focus on prime retail and city centre assets, and in advising large energy and utility companies on their property needs. Allan's experience covers the whole range of development work, from initial acquisitions and development agreements through to letting, financing and disposals. He advises major players in the UK real estate market, including Landsec, Hammerson and Nuveen.

As Managing Director Scotland, Allan is responsible for leading the firm's ambitious growth strategy in Scotland, building on over 260 years of heritage and a market-leading reputation in the key sectors of the 21st century economy.

Allan, alongside the other real estate partners based in Scotland, works closely with the wider UK real estate team to provide a seamless service north and south of the border.

Allan is dual qualified to practice as a solicitor in Scotland and England & Wales



Kirsty Wark
Broadcaster and Journalist

Kirsty Wark stands as a pioneering figure in UK journalism, with a distinguished 30-year tenure on BBC's "Newsnight". Following the 2024 General Election, she stepped down, leaving behind a legacy of holding politicians and public figures to account with her sharp interviewing skills. Kirsty's journey began at BBC Scotland, where she made her mark reporting on significant events such as the Lockerbie bombing. Her talents soon saw her move to BBC 2's *The Late Show* as a presenter, and in 1993, she joined "Newsnight", becoming a familiar face in both arts and current affairs.

Beyond "Newsnight", Kirsty has hosted "The Review Show" for over a decade and has presented a wide range of BBC arts series and documentaries. Her interviews have spanned a remarkable spectrum, from Margaret Thatcher to Madonna, Harold Pinter to Pete Doherty, and Damian Hirst to George Clooney, to name just a few. She continues to make her mark on Radio 4 with "The Reunion" and regularly presents "Start the Week", alongside her ongoing contributions to arts programmes and cultural history series, including "The Women Who Changed Modern Scotland" and "Panorama" specials. Kirsty's exceptional career has been recognised with several prestigious awards, including BAFTAs for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting, Journalist of the Year, and Best Television Presenter. In 2024, her remarkable achievements were celebrated with a lifetime achievement award at the RTS Journalism Awards.



Louise Hellem

CBI
Chief Economist

Louise is the Chief Economist at the CBI and a member of its Executive Committee. She and her team provide business leaders with advice on the UK economic outlook and global risks. Building on the insights from members, she shapes the CBI's overall view on economic and fiscal policy and leads the CBI's discussions with senior politicians and policymakers in these areas. Louise also oversees the CBI's economic consultancy business CBI Economics.

Before moving into the role Louise was the Director of Economic Policy at the CBI. She led the CBI's policy work on tax and regulation, as well as developing the CBI's strategy and evidence base for enhancing the competitiveness of the UK's business environment. Prior to joining the CBI, Louise spent 13 years at HM Treasury as a member of the Government Economic Service, where she led on a number of different analytical and policy issues, including National Living Wage policy and assessing the economic and distributional impacts of policy measures at fiscal events.

Louise holds an MSc in Economics from the University of Bristol and studied Economics and International Development at Bath University.



Professor Mairi Spowage

Fraser of Allander Institute
Director

Professor Mairi Spowage is the Director of the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde. The Fraser of Allander Institute is Scotland's leading economic research institute, which produces regular research, briefing and commentary on economic and fiscal issues which can impact on the UK & the nations and regions within it.

The institute's current research priorities include regular and impactful commentary on UK and Scottish fiscal events, child poverty, socioeconomic determinants of health inequalities, regional trade measurement and modelling, hospitality industry research, and economic measurement of the modern economy. The Institute's partners include the Robertson Trust, the Health Foundation, the Office for National Statistics and Department of Business and Trade. Mairi is part of the leadership of the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy and the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence, and sits on the OBR Advisory Panel, the BCC Economic Advisory Panel and the National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards in Economic Statistics (NSCASE). She was previously the Head of National Accounts at the Scottish Government and the Deputy Chief Executive of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.



James Withers

Independent Review of the Skills Delivery Landscape in Scotland
Author

James Withers is the former Chief Executive of Scotland Food & Drink and NFU Scotland.

He now runs his own business providing advisory services to government, industry organisations and commercial businesses.

In 11 years as CEO at Scotland Food & Drink (SF&D), James co-ordinated an industry and government collaboration to drive forward a growth strategy for the £15 billion Scottish food and drink sector.

James has also sat on the Scottish Government's national resilience group, the National Trade Board and co-chaired, with the Cabinet Secretary, the Food Security Taskforce.

In 2022, James was appointed as a GlobalScot and he has a number of non-executive director roles, including being on the boards of the Scottish Tourism Alliance and Abbey Group, working to grow the UK and Irish tourism industries.

In 2022, James was appointed by Scottish Ministers to lead an independent review of Scotland's £3.5 billion skills system. He presented proposals for reform in 2023 which have been accepted by Scottish Government with new legislation now in train.

James is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies (FRAGS).



Nisha Katona MBE

Founder and CEO of Mowgli Street Food, author and presenter

Nisha Katona MBE is a true trailblazer. After a 20-year career as a barrister, she embarked on a new journey in 2014, becoming a celebrated restaurateur, cookbook author, and TV chef. As CEO, executive chef, and development chef of Mowgli Street Food restaurants, she has successfully expanded to 21 locations across the UK. A self-professed curry evangelist, Nisha has a profound love for Indian cooking and has authored five cookbooks on the subject.

Nisha's warmth and articulate nature shine on camera, with her barrister background giving her exceptional public speaking skills. She has published five cookbooks since 2015, reflecting her deep interest in food anthropology. Her titles include **Pimp My Rice**, **The Spice Tree**, **Mowgli Street Food**, **The 30 Minute Mowgli**, and **Meat Free Mowgli**. Her latest book, **Bold: Big Flavour Twists to Classic Dishes**, was published in 2024. Nisha is a familiar face on food television, appearing alongside renowned British chefs and TV personalities. She is a judge on BBC's **Great British Menu** and a regular on ITV's **This Morning**. She has also presented **Recipes That Made Me** (BBC2), **Secrets of Your Supermarket Food** (Channel 5), and **A Taste of Italy** (Channel 4), among others.

Her most exciting venture, Mowgli Street Food, celebrates the freshness of Indian home and street cooking. Launched in Liverpool in 2015, it has grown to 21 locations across the UK. Mowgli is recognised as one of the nation's fastest growing companies and a top place to work, with accolades from The Sunday Times Fast Track 100 and Best Companies.

Nisha founded Mowgli with charitable giving at its core. The Mowgli Trust donates up to £500k annually to selected charities and sponsors a child in need for every full-time employee recruited.

Before her culinary career, Nisha was a barrister in child protection for 20 years. She served as a trustee for National Museums Liverpool and was appointed as an Ambassador for Diversity in Public Appointments by the Cabinet Office. Nisha was awarded an MBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours List for services to the Food Industry. Her restaurant, Mowgli, has won multiple awards, including Business of the Year, Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, Best Value Restaurant Operator, Trailblazer of the Year, Good Food Award Winner, Management Team Award, and Emerging Brand Award. Nisha's journey from barrister to culinary icon is a testament to her passion, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit.



Jamie Grant

Barclays UK Corporate Bank in Scotland
Head of Corporate Banking, Scotland

Jamie Grant is the Head of Corporate Banking, Scotland of the UK Corporate Bank in Scotland.

Jamie was initially recruited from HBOS to join Barclays in 2005 with a remit to grow the bank's Corporate Banking business in Scotland

Jamie is a qualified Chartered Accountant with more than 20 years' experience in Corporate Banking in Scotland. Before joining Barclays Jamie was a Senior Manager with Ernst & Young where he worked for six years in financial services and manufacturing sectors in both the UK and South Africa.

Jamie graduated with a degree in Geography from St Andrews University. In 2021 Jamie was one of the Business Leaders invited to a new advisory council set up by Scottish Government to help shape a 10-year National Strategy to drive Scotland's economic transformation as the country recovers from coronavirus and transitions to net zero.

Jamie is a keen sportsman and has represented Scotland at various levels in Rugby, Cricket and Athletics.



Susie Lind

Bluefloat Energy
Managing Director, UK

Susie is the Managing Director of the BlueFloat Energy | Nadara Partnership in the UK where she leads the development of the UK's largest portfolio of floating wind projects: 5GW across Scottish, English and Welsh waters. She has worked in the energy sector for 14 years in development, construction, operation and decommissioning of projects across a breadth of low carbon technologies – onshore wind, offshore wind, battery, solar and nuclear. She is a non-executive Director of Scottish Renewables and the Offshore Wind Industry Council where she works with industry and government to accelerate the deployment of renewables across the UK.

Outside of the energy sector she has held voluntary non-executive Director roles at CrossReach, Scotland's largest provider of social care and Scottish Squash.

Susie has practised as a lawyer for much of her career, ultimately running the legal functions of EDF Renewables UK & Ireland and EDF (UK) before taking on her first non-legal role, UK Nuclear Decommissioning Director in 2021.

She has completed executive leadership programmes at Yale and Esade as part of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's invite only programme.



Liam Middleton

University of Glasgow
Deputy Director of Economic Development

Liam is the Deputy Director of Economic Development at the University of Glasgow. His role involves oversight of the University's economic development portfolio, the leadership of its Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID) programme, and supporting initiatives to help with the implementation of the University's Innovation Strategy. Liam's work focuses on accelerating the positive civic and economic impact that is generated from the institution's research, innovations, and infrastructure projects.

After graduating from the University of Glasgow's School of Law, he went on to gain significant experience in the Civil Service. He held a number of senior policy roles at the Scottish Government – where he led on various commercial projects and advised ministers in areas such as energy policy, resilience, infrastructure investment, economic development, and industrial policy.



Dame Susan Rice DBE

Forth Green Freeport
Chair

As inaugural independent Chair of Scotland’s Forth Green Freeport, Dame Susan Rice oversees the delivery and governance of the consortium’s ambitious vision to deliver a green growth strategy for Scotland’s industrial corridor.

A highly respected chartered banker, she has had a distinguished career in finance as the former Chair and CEO of Lloyds TSB Scotland, where she was the first female in Europe to lead a clearing bank, and Managing Director of Lloyds Banking Group Scotland. She was also founding Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission and former President of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (now named Prosper).

With a career that spans medical research, leadership roles in higher education and then banking, Dame Susan has extensive experience in corporate governance across a wide range of public and private sector organisations. She was Chair of Scottish Water from 2015-2023. Her other recent Board experience includes the Bank of England, Scottish and Southern Energy and J Sainsbury plc.

Dame Susan is a non-executive member of the Office for Budget Responsibility and chairs the Global Ethical Finance Initiative, which delivers the largest finance-focused Path to COP campaigns. She has received honorary degrees from a number of Scottish universities, is a Freeman of the City of London and was awarded a DBE in the 2018 New Year’s Honours List.



Rt Hon Lord Jack McConnell of Glenscorrodale

Jack McConnell was First Minister of Scotland 2001-2007, UK Special Representative for Peacebuilding 2008-2010, and he has been a member of the UK House of Lords since 2010.

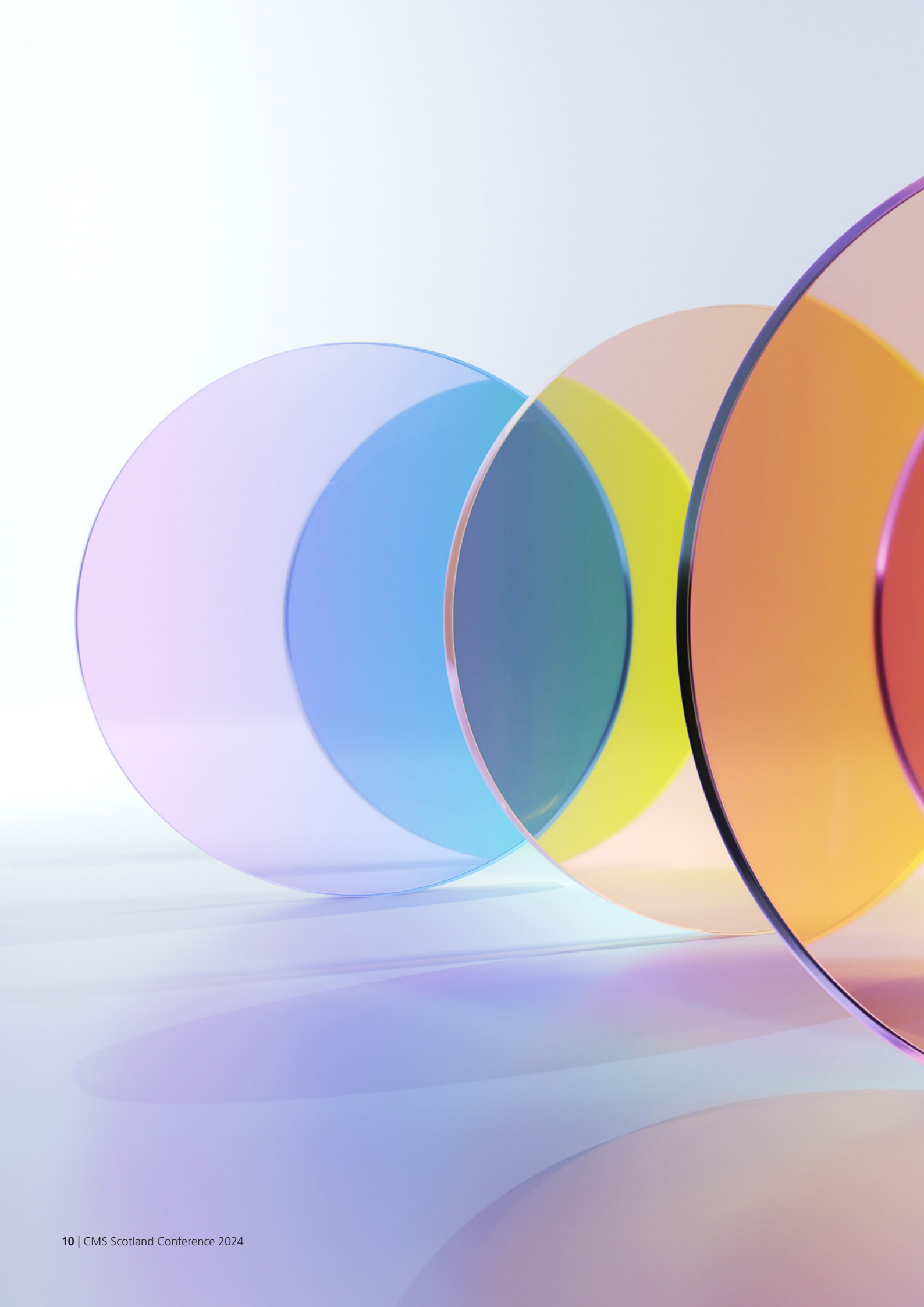
Lord McConnell is currently Chancellor of the University of Stirling, Chair of the SSE Renewables Sustainable Development Panel, Deputy Chair of the UK/Japan 21st Century Board, and a global adviser to PwC. He is a mediator with the World Bank and an adviser to the Bangsamoro peace process in the Philippines.

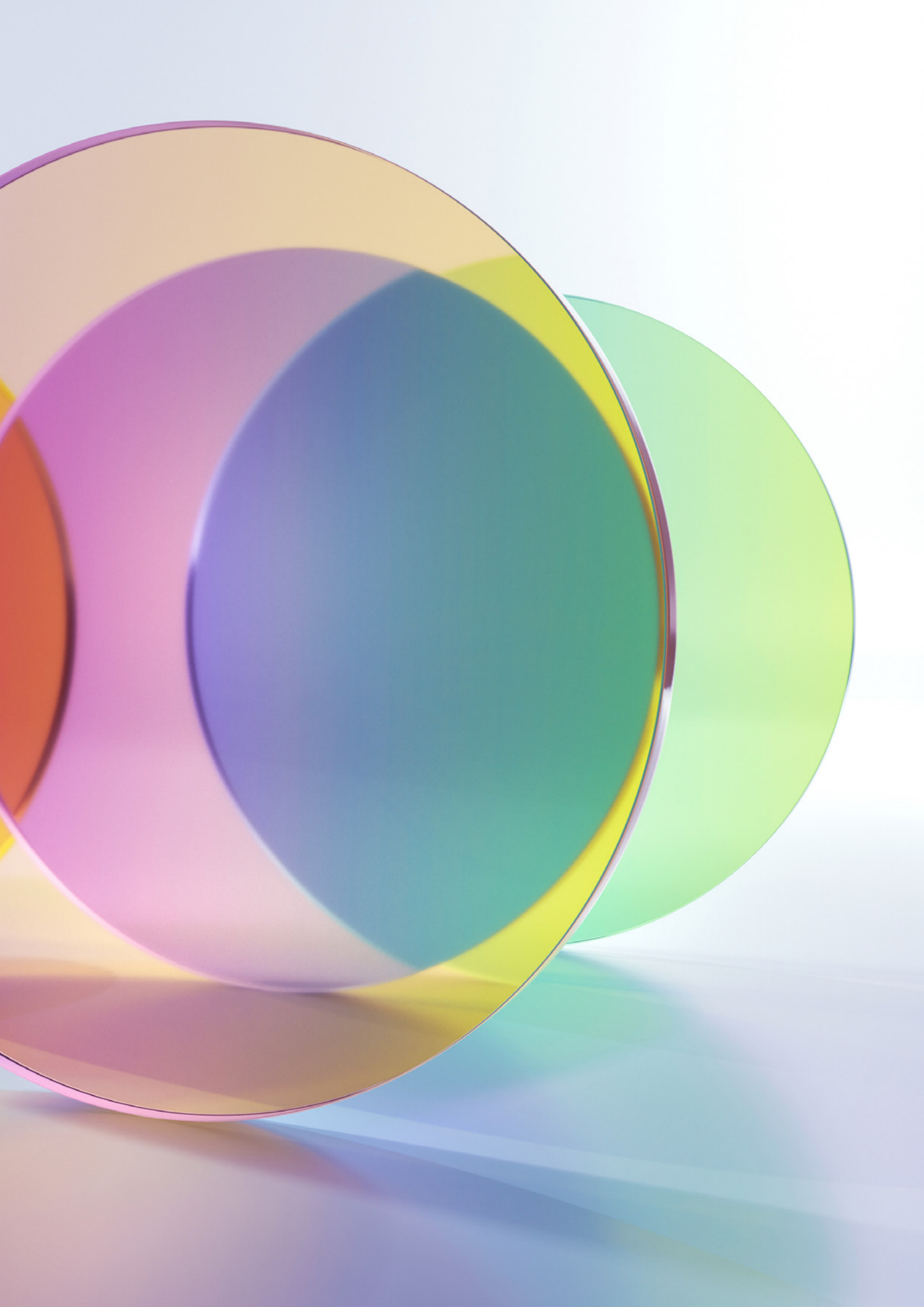
Jack is Chair of the McConnell International Foundation and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the UN Global Goals and he has served with many organisations supporting vulnerable young people and those suffering from conflict. He is currently Vice President of UNICEF UK and was previously Chair of the International Peacebuilding Awards.

He has a keen interest in sport, now serving as Honorary President of Scottish Athletics and Chair of the Commonwealth Games Scotland Endowment Fund. He is Chair of the policy think tank Reform Scotland and has honorary degrees from Stirling and Edinburgh Universities.

Having been a leader in the Scottish Constitutional Convention, from 1999 to 2011, Jack McConnell was then an elected Member in the first Scottish Parliament. He was Minister for Finance from 1999-2000 and Scotland's Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs 2000-2001. He grew up on a sheep farm on the Isle of Arran in Scotland and was a High School Mathematics teacher before entering national politics.

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