

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE AND BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Director and Chair, Scottish Power Retail Holdings Limited

Type: External, Non-Executive Director

Date of Appointment: 2 October 2025

Current professional activities and positions

Sir Jim was appointed a member of the Board of Directors of Scottish Power Limited on 10 October 2015, appointed Vice Chair in March 2022 and appointed a member of its Executive Committee in February 2025. On 7 October 2025, he was appointed a member and Chair of the Board of Directors of ScottishPower Renewable Energy Limited.

He was Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde from March 2009 to August 2025. He was thereafter conferred the title of Emeritus Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde.

In August 2009 he was appointed as Chairman of the Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering (SRPE), a major pan-Scotland, multi-university research pooling consortium and Chairs the Scottish Energy Technology Partnership (ETP), another research pool involving all of the energy research intensive Scottish Universities – the largest of its type in Europe.

He was a member of the UK Trade and Investment Energy Excellence Board. He co-chairs – with the First Minister – the Energy Advisory Board in Scotland. He is Chairman of the Independent Glasgow Economic Leadership Board for the City of Glasgow and, in 2011, was appointed as Chairman of the Board of the Glasgow Science Centre. In October 2012, he was appointed as Vice-President of the UK's Institution of Engineering and Technology. From January 2013 to October 2020, he was a Non-Executive Director of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Board.

He was a Non-Executive Director of Weir Group plc from 2015 to 2024.

He is a fellow of:

The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Royal Society of Edinburgh
The Institution of Engineering and Technology
The Institute of Physics

Personal profile and academic training

BSc, MSc, PhD, DSc, CEng

Noteworthy experience in the energy and industrial engineering sector

Professor Sir Jim McDonald joined Strathclyde University in 1984 following 7 years in the UK electricity supply industry, having worked for SSEB and Scottish Hydro Electric. He was appointed to the Rolls-Royce Chair in Electrical Power Systems in 1993 and led research in advanced electrical power systems. He became Head of Department in Electronic and Electrical Engineering in 2003 and is Chairman of Strathclyde's Institute for Energy and Environment, the largest power engineering and energy systems research group internationally. He advises government, industry and commerce on power networks, distributed generation and renewable energy.

He was appointed Deputy Principal in 2006 with the University's research and commercialisation portfolio.

Other information

In the Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours List on 16 June 2012, Professor McDonald was awarded a Knighthood for services to education, engineering and the economy. In September 2013, Professor McDonald received the "Outstanding Contribution as a Business Leader", recognition at The Herald's Inaugural inspiring City Awards event.