
PROFESSOR SIR JIM MCDONALD**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 of Chair of the Board of Directors of ScottishPower Renewable Energy Limited.

He served as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde from March 2009 to August 2025. And was President on the Royal Academy of Engineering, the UK national academy for engineering, between 2019 and 2024. He was the Senior Independent Director of the Weir Group board between 2015 and 2024.

He Chairs the Scottish Enterprise board, the national economic development agency. 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. He is Chair of Enginuity, the UK's leading engineering and manufacturing training organisation and is a NED on the Board of Supernode, an Irish technology company in superconducting cables. He is Chair of the Scottish Partnership in Energy and Engineering Research & Innovation (SPEERI), an alliance of 14 Scottish Universities.

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 was 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.

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 January 2024, he received the rare honour of becoming a Knight Grand Cross (GBE) for services to engineering, education and energy in the Kings New Year Honours List.