



Secretary's Report for 3 April 2025 to 16 April 2026

Following the AGM on 3 April 2025 held online via Zoom, the Society of Authors in Scotland (SoAiS) Committee met online five times and once online and in-person in Glasgow (a hybrid meeting). Each meeting was quorate. The dates of each meeting were: 22 May 2025, 24 July 2025, 25 September 2025, 27 November 2025, 29 January 2026 and 30 March 2026.

During 2025, the SoAiS committee farewelled Helen Sedgwick who stepped down as co-Chair and committee member at the end of July. Mary Paulson-Ellis continued as Chair. We also farewelled committee member Kristie De Garis in December. Alycia Pirmohamed took a leave of absence throughout the year.

The Society of Authors (SoA) Management Committee agreed in November 2025 that SoA associate members can now serve as full committee members within Nation and other SoA Groups. As a result, Marlene Lowe, our SoAiS co-opted member, became a full voting member of our committee.

The role of SoAiS Secretary is unique within the SoA. I volunteered to take on the role in meeting of 7 December 2023 and was elected unanimously by the committee. I have held the role since then. A staff member of the SoA takes the minutes at most committee meetings, which enables all the volunteers to contribute fully on committee business. As Secretary, I continue to prepare the agendas alongside the Chair and SoA staff member Elsa Roberts for each committee meeting.

From the 7 November 2024 committee meeting, I took on the role co-ordinating the material to be included in the quarterly newsletter and preparing the copy for *The Author*. Material is provided by all the committee members and the Senior Policy Manager. The SoAiS quarterly newsletter goes out in the first week of February, May, August and November. This timetable aligns with the quarterly production of *The Author*.

The SoA Senior Policy Manager (Scotland) attends committee meetings regularly in a non-voting capacity. They provide information about campaigns, as well as taking part in discussions about issues of concern to members in Scotland. Sam Gonçalves began in the role during 2024 and in April 2026 announced he was stepping down. I would like to thank Sam for his contribution to the SoAiS.

The SoAiS AGM was until 2024 running very close to the main SoA AGM. The SoAiS AGM date was reset to April.

It has been another year of change, with more on the way that promise to enable the SoAiS to work better to represent the SoA's members in Scotland.

SJ Groenewegen
Secretary, SoAiS