



Sally Witcher, PhD, MSc

Dr Sally Witcher has worked, at different times and in different roles, on matters relating to social security over a period of approximately 30 years. She was formerly the CEO of Inclusion Scotland, Deputy Chair of the Disability and Carers' Benefits Expert Advisory Group and a member of the Scottish Government's (non-statutory) Poverty and Inequality Commission.

She received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Social Sciences and a Master of Science (MSc), Policy Studies, from The University of Edinburgh. In 2023 she received an Honorary Doctorate (PhD) from the University of Stirling, in recognition of her role in the establishment of the Scottish devolved social security system.

From 2006-2010 she was a senior civil servant in the Office for Disability Issues, Department for Work and Pensions, UK Government, and, before that, she chaired the Disability Employment Advisory Committee (a UK Government Non Departmental Public Body) and worked in consultancy and academia, based in Edinburgh.

In the 1990s she was the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group. She has been a member of many government and research advisory groups, including for the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. Sally is herself a disabled person and recipient of Adult Disability Payment. She was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 2006 for services to disabled people.

On Jan. 7, 2019 she was appointed Chair of Scottish Government's Scottish Commission on Social Security, on which she served until Sept. 2022, when she resigned due to dissatisfaction with Scottish Government's handling of the pandemic. <https://www.gov.scot/news/sally-witcher-named-as-chair-of-new-social-security-commission/> In June of 2023 she founded and became the director of the Inclusive New Normal, a social enterprise working to drive forward learning arising through the Covid-19 pandemic, and promote action, towards a safe, inclusive new normal.