

RESUME - ROBIN BURLEY

MBE MSc FRSA

Robin is an expert in dispute resolution, an experienced and accredited coach and mediator, and a partner in Eskhill & Co. He has a Masters in Mediation and Conflict Resolution. He was formerly chief executive of Edinvar, a housing and community care enterprise. He is a former chair of Scottish Mediation and has wide experience in governance. He was made MBE in 2000 for services to housing associations and disabled people.



MEDIATOR AND COACH

Robin set up Eskhill & Co in 1998 after two decades leading the Edinvar Group, one of the UK's most innovative housing and care organisations. Robin is a business coach to voluntary, private and public sector executives and teams with accreditations in executive coaching from the School of Coaching and the University of Strathclyde. He is an experienced and skilled mediator, having initially trained with Core Solutions in 2003 and becoming a Registered Scottish Mediator with Scottish Mediation in 2004. He graduated Masters with Distinction in Mediation and Conflict Resolution at the University of Strathclyde in 2013.

Robin has carried out over 375 mediations. His mediation experience is wide including: commercial, in-court, complaints, employment and workplace, construction and planning, agriculture, professional indemnity and corporate governance. He is on the mediator panels of the Sheriff Courts in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission, and Scottish Mediation's NHS Complaints and Third Sector services. Robin has managed mediation service contracts for the Scottish Government and the Scottish Land Commission relating to tenant farming sector disputes. Robin is a tutor on the Law Diploma elective at the University of Strathclyde.

Many mediations have involved advisers and included mediation sessions of up to fourteen people, including lawyers (solicitors and advocates), land agents, architects, surveyors and insurers. Robin has some experience of multi-party mediation: with a recent example being a dispute among different interest groups following a community land buy-out. Robin developed the use of Zoom for mediations in April 2020 and has advised other bodies on setting up their remote mediation procedures and practices. Robin has led a webinar on mediation.

Robin was joined in business by Lindsay Burley, also a coach and mediator, in 2003. He is a former chair of Scottish Mediation, the umbrella body for mediation in Scotland and has been active in promoting mediation as a way to resolve disputes and a life skill for improving our business, community and family relationships. He is qualified in the Myers Briggs Personality Indicator (MBTI) which he uses in coaching and mediation.

Robin is a pragmatist more than a theorist in approach and style when mediating a dispute. Theories of dispute resolution from his Masters' studies do provide a useful backdrop but an intuitive act of faith may be the game changer. It is a combination of his quiet determination and his sense of belief in better that wins through.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Robin joined Edinvar Housing Association as its first Director in 1976 after leading an urban regeneration team at the Housing Corporation. He built Edinvar into a pioneering group with a reputation for fresh approaches to housing and community care: advising developers on urban regeneration; running an international citizens' jury on employment and disability; and being a member of a Government review on drug and alcohol. He pioneered barrier free and telecare services for independent living. Robin was active in Rethinking Construction, chairing the Housing Forum Scottish Steering Group and the Modernising Construction Strategic Group set up by the Minister for Enterprise which was the forerunner of the Scottish Construction Forum.

Robin is experienced in governance having had several executive, non-executive and chairing roles. Robin was past chair of NHS Lothian's primary & community division and its charitable foundation. He was past chair of the charities: Blackwood: Built Environment Forum Scotland; and ELCAP. His other non-executive positions included: a university court, a health trust, two national representative bodies and a world heritage trust.

"Robin's patience and inherent sense of belief gave us hope that we might just get there, even when other signals perhaps said something different."