

SUBMISSION FROM PROFESSOR LESLEY J YELLOWLEES
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I became the first female President of the Royal Society of Chemistry in July 2012 – the first in its 172 year history. I took up my current role at the University of Edinburgh in August 2011 and in so doing became the first female Head of the College of Science and Engineering. Prior to that, I was the first female Head of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh. My current interests are public engagement of science and promoting women in science and my research interests are inorganic electrochemistry and spectroelectrochemistry. I was awarded an MBE in 2005 for services to science and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2012.

The College of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh is one of the largest and highest-ranked science and engineering groupings in the UK. It comprises seven Schools (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, GeoSciences, Informatics, Mathematics, and Physics and Astronomy). The College has over 2,700 academic and support staff, and educates some 6,000 undergraduates, 800 taught postgraduates and 1,500 research students. It is in the front rank of UK university science and engineering groupings for research quality and income (£130M in 2011/12), and is a key player in many European and international research collaborations. I have supported and encouraged all seven Schools to apply for Athena Swan Awards (or their equivalent) and have successfully gained a Gold Award for Chemistry (only the second School in the UK to achieve this award), a Silver Award for Biological Sciences and a Juno Practitioner Award for Physics. The other four Schools have submitted for Athena Awards and decisions are pending.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. The RSC is committed to ensuring that an innovative, thriving and diverse scientific community is in place to face the future. Supported by a worldwide network of more than 47,000 members and an international publishing business, activities span education and qualifications, professional conduct, science policy and the promotion of chemistry to the public.

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