



Event Booklet

RCPsych in Scotland Forensic Faculty Conference 2026

@RCPsychScot
#RCPsychScotForensic26

3 September 2026

at the
Apex Grassmarket Hotel
(Apex Suite)
Registration from 9am

Contents

Programme	3
Speaker biographies and presentation abstracts	5
RCPsych in Scotland Poster Presentations	10



A register will be taken to confirm attendance upon arrival.



Please turn your phone/devices to silent and your email notifications off for the duration of the event.



Feedback Forms will be circulated for you to complete in the afternoon.



Certificates of attendance will be emailed to you within 10 days of the event.

RCPsych in Scotland **Forensic Faculty Conference 2026**

Thursday, 3 September 2026 | Apex Grassmarket Hotel, Edinburgh
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Morning Programme Chaired by: Dr Stuart Doig and Dr David Walsh	
09:00 – 09:20	Registration & refreshments
09:20 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction to the morning from the Chairs Dr Stuart Doig, RCPsychiS Forensic Faculty Chair Dr David Walsh, RCPsychiS Forensic Faculty Vice Chair
09:30 – 10:00	Documenting torture Dr Daniel Jary, Lead Doctor (North East England & Scotland), Freedom from Torture
10:00 – 10:30	Mental Health Needs of Asylum Seekers in custody Dr Stephen Davidson, Visiting Psychiatrist to Dungavel Removal Centre, NHS Lanarkshire
10:30 – 10:40	Discussion and Questions
10:40 – 10:55	Comfort Break
10:55 – 11:40	Beyond Ideology: International evidence on effective assessment and interventions for violent extremism Dr Sarah Marsden, Director of Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, University of St Andrews
11:40 – 12:20	Multi Agency responses to Counter terrorism Risk Detective Chief Inspector Michael Nelson, National Lead for Counter Terrorism Clinical Consultancy Service (CTCCS), National Lead for Interventions Centre of Expertise (ICE) Dr Richard Taylor, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, National Clinical Lead for Counter Terrorism Clinical Consultancy Service (CTCCS)
12:20-12:40	The way forward for Scotland. Development of a multiagency service in Scotland and the role of the NHS clinician. Panel discussion Chaired by: Dr Craig Marsh, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, NHS Lanarkshire Dr Jo Brown, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Clinical Director, NHS Lothian
12:40 – 13:30	Lunch

Afternoon Programme Chaired by: Dr Stuart Doig and Dr David Walsh	
13:30 – 13:45	<u>Scottish Court Simulation: an update</u> Dr Elizabeth Askew, ST5 Forensic Psychiatry
13:45 – 14:45	Panel Debate – Treated and returned. Does recovery from major mental illness mean the end of hospital treatment for transferred life sentenced prisoners?
14:45 – 15:00	Comfort Break
15:00 – 15:15	Reflections on debate. Do we need to agree principles of practice? Dr David Walsh, NHS Tayside Dr Stuart Doig, NHS State Hospitals board for Scotland
15:15 – 15:45	From machetes to microphones...reflections on a career as a forensic psychiatrist Dr Rhona Morrison, Retired forensic psychiatrist/author/public speaker
15:45 – 16:00	A Brief History Of Forensic Psychiatry on Film Dr Conor McAvoy, Core Psychiatry Trainee 3, NHS GGC
16:00 – 16:05	Close
From 16:05	Informal drinks reception, followed by dinner for those who have confirmed attendance.

*The RCPsychiS reserves the right to change the programme without prior notice.
1 point per hour of educational activity can be allocated, pending peer group review*



Event Chairs

Dr Stuart Doig

Dr Stuart Doig is a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist at The State Hospital, Carstairs. He has previously worked in this role across medium and low secure settings, as well as in a forensic community team, and has served as a visiting psychiatrist in a number of prisons across Scotland. His clinical work has been principally with men who have a major mental illness, alongside periods working with men who have an intellectual disability across community, low, and high secure settings. He was an accredited risk assessor for the Risk Management Authority for over fifteen years and now sits as a Board member. He is currently Chair of the Forensic Faculty, RCPsych in Scotland.

Dr David Walsh

Dr David Walsh Dr David Walsh began his higher training in Forensic Psychiatry in 2016 at NHS Tayside. He has worked as a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist in the Medium Secure Unit, Rohallion Clinic in NHS Tayside since 2019. He is the Local Programme Lead for Forensic Psychiatry Training in the East of Scotland. Dr Walsh is an examiner for RCPsych CASC exams and an Interviewer for National ST4 Psychiatry recruitment. In 2025, Dr Walsh took over the role of RCPsych in Scotland Forensic Faculty Vice Chair.

Speaker Biographies & Presentation Abstracts (in programme order)

Dr Daniel Jary

Dr Daniel Jary joined Freedom from Torture 10 years ago and currently serves as Lead Doctor for North East England and Scotland. In this role, he manages the organisation's medico-legal report service in Newcastle and Glasgow, overseeing a team of approximately 10 to 15 doctors who produce specialist reports documenting evidence of torture.

Alongside his work with Freedom from Torture, Dr Jary also works as an NHS General Practitioner in Newcastle, in a practice with a high proportion of patients who are asylum seekers or refugees.

Presentation Abstract:

Medico-legal report writing for survivors of torture in the asylum system, applying the Istanbul Protocol and relevant case law.

Dr Stephen Davidson

Dr Stephen Davidson is a Consultant Forensic & General Adult Psychiatrist and Clinical Director for Adult Mental Health Inpatient Services with NHS Lanarkshire. He has been the visiting psychiatrist to Dungavel Immigration and Removal Centre since May 2023. Within NHS Lanarkshire, he additionally provides direct clinical care for IPCU, University Hospital Wishaw, HMP Shotts and the Forensic Mental Health Court Diversion Service.

Presentation Abstract:

An introduction to migration patterns / demographics, immigration terminology / legislation, the role of the Home Office and role of dispersal services / detention centres. A crash course for psychiatrists navigating the interface with immigration services including case examples.

Dr Sarah Marsden

Dr Sarah Marsden is Director of the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence Senior Lecturer in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. Sarah's research focuses on mobilisation and radicalisation to violence, and efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism. She has published over 50 articles, reports and books in this area, including her monograph 'Reintegrating Extremists: Deradicalisation and Desistance' (Palgrave, 2017), and has acted in an advisory capacity to a wide range of policymakers and practitioners internationally and nationally. Her current research covers terrorism case management; Human-AI Teaming in terrorism risk assessment; the role of trauma and adversity in violent extremism; interventions to prevent young people becoming involved in terrorism; and efforts to evaluate violence prevention initiatives.

Presentation Abstract:

Violent extremism referrals increasingly concern individuals at the boundaries of the terrorism and extremism category, and in some cases beyond it. Existing instruments and case management processes were developed from research that took ideology as the starting point for identifying cases; this research may not reflect the current cohort. Nevertheless, the existing evidence still has much to offer, and this session sets out what it shows about the effectiveness and implementation of assessment and intervention methods. It points to three principles that are relevant however legible the ideology is: the function the behaviour serves, the individual's social ecology, and the relational conditions that make assessment and intervention possible.

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Nelson

DCI Mike Nelson began his policing career with Strathclyde Police in the late 1990s before moving to London in 2004 to join Counter Terrorism Policing. Over more than two decades in counter terrorism, he has played a key role in many of the UK's most significant and high-profile investigations and operational responses.

Since 2015, Mike has led efforts to strengthen the use of multi-agency partnerships in the management of counter terrorism risk, including the development of the pioneering Clinical Consultancy Service (CCS), a world-leading collaboration between Counter Terrorism Policing and healthcare partners. As the National Lead for the Interventions Centre of Expertise, he oversees the integration of multi-agency approaches into some of the UK's most complex, sensitive and high-risk counter

terrorism investigations, helping to improve outcomes for both public protection and vulnerable individuals.

Presentation Abstract:

The challenges and need for greater multi agency engagement on risk management

Dr Richard Taylor

Dr Richard Taylor is National Clinical Lead of the Counter Terrorism Clinical Consultancy Service (CCS). The CCS is a collaboration between Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) and the NHS, delivered by North London NHS Trust and Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Trust. The service went live on 1 April 2024, having evolved from the Vulnerability Support Hubs, which had been piloted since 2016. Its remit is to provide forensic mental health advice and consultancy to CTP case officers across all four counter-terrorism capabilities: Prevent, intelligence, investigations and nominal management.

The service supports cases where it is known or suspected that mental ill health and neurodiversity may be relevant to counter-terrorism risk and mental health concerns, and operates through three regional hubs in Manchester, Birmingham and London as a single national team.

Dr Taylor was a member of the 2003 working group on the psychiatric effects of indefinite detention under anti-terrorism legislation and of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' working group on psychiatry and counter-terrorism, which produced the 2016 position statement. He is a past member of both the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Special Committee on Human Rights and the Forensic Faculty.

Presentation Abstract:

The CCS is an advice and consultancy service. whose mission is to support CTP case officers. and provide mental health liaison. I will present an overview of the operational and ethical aspects of the CCS along with a descriptive analysis of the first 1,534 completed CCS cases.

Dr Craig Marsh

Dr Craig Marsh is a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist working within the Forensic Community Mental Health Team in Lanarkshire and providing input to HMP Shotts. Dr Marsh has a role as Prevent Psychiatry Lead for NHS Lanarkshire.

Dr Marsh is a former Vice Chair of the Forensic Faculty in Scotland.

Presentation Abstract:

Discussion on current provision of psychiatry input to PREVENT within services in Scotland and the way forward (with Dr Jo. Brown)

Dr Jo Brown

Dr Jo Brown is a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist based in Edinburgh where she is Clinical Director and lead consultant for the Forensic Women's Service. Her clinical work includes inpatient, outpatient and prison clinics. She is also a qualified Cognitive Analytic Therapist. She has an Honorary Fellowship with the School of Law, Edinburgh University. She was previously the Chair for the Forensic Faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland and participated in responding to several recent Scottish Government reviews including the Scott Review of Mental Health Law and the Barron Review of Forensic Mental Health Services in Scotland. She is currently working with her colleague Dr Katharine Russell, consultant clinical psychologist, on the development of services in Scotland to support CT colleagues.

Presentation Abstract:

Dr Jo Brown and Dr Craig Marsh will chair the panel discussion.

Dr Elizabeth Askew

Dr Elizabeth Askew is a Specialty Registrar in Forensic Psychiatry currently working in the LSU at Rohallion Clinic. She is an International Medical Graduate originally from Venezuela. She relocated to the UK in 2014 and undertook a number of medical posts in various locations throughout the UK. She has been working in Psychiatry since 2018. She moved to Scotland in 2024 to pursue Forensic higher training in NHS Tayside. Along with colleagues, Dr Askew organises Court Simulation sessions for the Forensic Psychiatry Training Programme.

Presentation Abstract:

Scottish Forensic Psychiatry Residents have been collaborating with lawyers to produce Court Simulation Sessions since October 2024 and these are now part of the Forensic Psychiatry Training Programme. We will discuss the changes we have made throughout this time, results and next steps.

Dr Rhona Morrison

Dr Rhona Morrison is a retired, consultant forensic psychiatrist, who worked predominantly in the forensic CMHS setting and in national prisons. She always tried to be non-judgemental and see the human beings behind the headlines. On her 55th birthday, she retired from the NHS and sadly her husband died from a brain tumour the same day. Following retirement she has gone on to publish two award-winning memoirs, has started an art business and has become a globetrotting cruise ship enrichment lecturer. Firstly, she has a passion to challenge mindsets around stigma and mental illness, and secondly, she offers hope and inspiration to overcome adversity, at times of significant life transition, using personal story-telling as the vehicle.

Presentation Abstract:

Reflections on curious encounters and learning from a career as a forensic psychiatrist, both clinical and personal, and the mindset required when flourishing into a fulfilling retirement...the next chapter.

Dr Conor McAvoy

Dr Conor McAvoy is a CT3 currently training in Glasgow. He studied Biomedical Sciences (Physiology) and then Medicine at the University of Aberdeen. He completed Broad Based Training in 2025 before entering Core Psychiatry as his chosen speciality.

He is a core trainee representative on the RCPsych Philosophy and Psychiatry Special Interest Group.

He has a research interest in medical humanities particularly in how film and psychiatry intersect.

Presentation Abstract:

From *Psycho* (1960) to *Silence of the Lambs* (1991) forensic psychiatry has served as a source of inspiration for filmmakers.

This presentation will cover an overview of how forensic psychiatry has been portrayed in cinema.

It will consider how this can help us in our practice and professional development by considering how wider society and culture understand both our work and patients.



POSTERS

The entries are listed in alphabetical order of submitting author, indicated in bold type.

- 1. Dr Harriet Davis**
– *Management of diabetes in a high secure hospital*
- 2. Dr Thanes Jeyakrishnan**
– *An ongoing systematic review: Does Access to Intimate Relationships Lead to Positive Outcomes for Inpatient Forensic Mental Health Populations?*
- 3. Dr Chukwunonso Ndilemeni**
– *A Clinical Audit of Seclusion Reviews in an Adult Forensic Inpatient Service: Compliance with Trust Policy CL20*
- 4. Dr Aamir Shahzad**
– *Better Decisions Together: Improving Shared Decision Making in The State Hospital (A quality improvement project)*
- 5. Dr Johann Smit and Dr Leah Jones**
– *The Management of Prisoners in HMP Edinburgh Awaiting Transfer to Psychiatric Hospital*
- 6. Dr Yin Soe and Dr Fraser Walker**
– *Soft Mechanical Restraint (SMR) Use in a Medium Secure Forensic Unit: Staff Perspectives*