

Cllr Thomas Prag MA FCIM FRadacad

**Expression of Interest for High Life Highland
Board Vacancy**



Introduction. I am very interested in renewing my link with HLH. I was an early supporter of the concept and was on the board until 2012 when I became chair of Planning Environment and Development. Given the relatively short term left until council elections in 2017 it may be helpful to provide some continuity for HLH at this stage, I would be able to pick up relatively quickly. I have summarised below how I meet the skillset and criteria provided.

Experience. *Managing/Leading:* As founder and MD of MFR for 19 years I have a track record in running a small business which was also a community service. During that time I was involved in many other organisations – including as president of Inverness Chamber of commerce. I have had significant involvement in the cultural sector, for example: founder director of Highland Festival and ultimately chairman, Eden Court Theatre board and the Highlanders Museum Board. I have served on many boards over the years – both private and public organisations covering a wide range of governance and strategic issues: examples include Radio Authority, Inverness Harbour Trust, UHI, Media Support Solutions, Highland Opportunity and many more. I have also served on Audit & Finance committees at UHI and Eden Court amongst others and have an understanding of risk management. I founded the MFR Charity Trust, was a trustee and chair of UHI development trust and am a director of Inshes Community Association – while not an active fund raiser I understand the strategy and how professional it has to be. I have contributed to strategy development at UHI, Harbour Trust, HLH, HOL and Inverness Airport Business Park amongst others.

(Criteria: A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, B4)

Skills. I have a good understanding of ‘public facing’ issues such as marketing, media, image and interaction with the customer. I have learnt over the years how to prioritise and manage the many, many reports I have had on my desk! Reading reports is not my favourite task but I believe I have developed practical analytical skills to absorb key issues and raise questions. I am well known for contributing and communicating during meetings and pride myself on being able to listen and see an issue through others eyes. I enjoy participating in lively and constructive discussion and have a sense of humour which I am not afraid to use!

(Criteria A4, A5, A6 A7)

Personal Qualities. I personally support the objectives strongly – particularly as they contribute to the well-being of people in the highlands. I argued strongly for the formation of HLH partly because I believed it could deliver these objectives more imaginatively and responsively as an independent organisation. I have always believed myself to be an enabler for others- the HLH team is full of creative and committed folk who need our support. The team I built and sustained at MFR was life changing for many of those involved and won the station numerous awards. I am comfortable in public situations and am already an enthusiastic promoter of HLH given the chance.

(Criteria A8, A9, A10, B5, B6)

Other Requirements. I have lived in the Highlands since 1978 and my previous (and current) commitments have taken me to many parts of the area. I am used to evening commitments if needed. I am chairman of a charity (Media Support Partnership) and involved in others – I have an understanding of the regulatory environment.

(criteria A11, A12, B7, B8)