



News release – 20 August 2017

## **Margo Paterson appointed as CEO of SYHA Hostelling Scotland**

SYHA Hostelling Scotland's board of trustees has appointed Margo Paterson as chief executive officer, following the recent retirement of Keith Legge.

Margo, who has a background in finance, has been a key part of the SYHA management team for the last 16 years, heading up Support Services before taking over the role of deputy CEO in 2007. Committed to the ethos of the organisation, she is a keen advocate of SYHA's youth programmes, enabling young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

Commenting on her appointment, Margo Paterson said: "I'm fortunate to have played an integral part in the transformation of the organisation in recent years and I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity to take this forward.

"We will continue to listen to our members and guests and modernise our network to meet expectations by offering good quality, low-cost, flexible accommodation in some of the finest locations Scotland has to offer.

"People are at the heart of our organisation and I'm very proud of the exceptional service, local knowledge and warm welcome we offer those with an adventurous spirit wishing to experience the real Scotland."

Margo has also been a director of the Cairngorm Business Partnership since 2013, which operates within the Cairngorms National Park as the Chamber of Commerce representing member businesses.

Welcoming Margo to her new role, chair of SYHA Hostelling Scotland, David Calder, said: "We're delighted to have appointed Margo as CEO. She not only brings years of experience to the role, but her passion and enthusiasm for SYHA is widely recognised throughout the organisation. This is an exciting time for SYHA and we wish her well in her new role."

SYHA Hostelling Scotland is a self-funding charitable organisation with 34 hostels located throughout Scotland, accommodating 400,000 guests every year, with a turnover of £8m and an estimated contribution to the Scottish visitor economy of £25m.

**Ends**

**Media contact:**

Graham Sheach | marketing manager | SYHA Hostelling Scotland | E: [marketingmanager@syha.org.uk](mailto:marketingmanager@syha.org.uk) | M: 07818 455832

Paddy Cuthbert | Littlehouse Media | E: [paddy@littlehousemedia.uk.com](mailto:paddy@littlehousemedia.uk.com) | M: 07913 951717 | 0131 526 3980

**Useful links:**

SYHA Hostelling Scotland - <https://www.syha.org.uk>

SYHA on Twitter – <https://twitter.com/syhahostelling> #syhadventure

SYHA on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/syhahostellingscotland>

**Notes to editors:**

**SYHA Hostelling Scotland** is a self-funding charity operating a network of nearly 60 exceptional youth and affiliate hostels for the benefit of all those wishing to learn and experience what Scotland has to offer. Our unique sites provide affordable, comfortable, safe and quality-assured accommodation with a warm friendly welcome, local knowledge, activities and services for guests travelling around Scotland.

Members enjoy a range of exclusive benefits including dual membership of Hostelling International, providing access to more than 4,000 youth hostels in over 90 countries worldwide. Membership and guest overnight income supports our charitable youth programmes and the maintenance of the hostelling network, particularly in rural Scotland.