

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **MDDUS HOLDS LONDON AGM TO REFLECT BOOST IN UK-WIDE MEMBERSHIP**

The UK-wide defence organisation MDDUS today (Fri 17 Sept) held its annual general meeting for the first time ever in London.

The move away from the traditional venue of its Glasgow headquarters reflects the latest membership figures for MDDUS which reveal that for the first time in its history, the majority of the organisation's GP members and just under 50% of all members are now based outside Scotland.

The AGM was held in the new MDDUS London offices at Pemberton Row, close to the capital's legal centre, which opened in February this year.

Gordon Dickson, chief executive, said: "We decided to hold the AGM in London to reflect the fact that the Union's membership numbers and market share south of the border continue to grow year-on-year.

"As a result we have increased the facilities we offer to members from our new London base."

Dickson stressed the defence organisation was not turning its back on its Scottish roots, adding: "Our members – wherever they are based in the UK – deserve the very best advice and as the Scottish and English healthcare delivery systems are increasingly diverging, it is vital for us to have a major presence in both countries."

Two recently appointed non-executive directors to the MDDUS board attended the AGM for the first time in their new role - London-based consultant surgeon and medical journalist Peter McDonald and high-profile Scottish dentist Robert Donald.

McDonald is a bowel surgeon at Northwick Park & St. Mark's Hospitals in Harrow, although he is perhaps best known among doctors as a satirical medical journalist through his column in *Hospital Doctor*, a magazine for which he wrote for a quarter of a century. He has worked for the BBC and still writes under several noms de plume.

McDonald said: "My interest in medico-legal matters is mainly motivated by a sense that society - that is patients, lawyers and politicians - fails to appreciate the uncertainty that doctors have to work with as they pursue their calling.

"I know through bitter experience that it is, indeed, a hard task to make a diagnosis and follow it up with a perfectly executed management strategy, and many complaints against clinicians must be defended against a philosophy that states if it was not perfect then sue."

He added: "I joined MDDUS in 2002 after reviewing the excellent history of the Union - entitled *A Century of Care* - for a journal and am now delighted to be serving as a non-executive director."

Donald is a full-time general dental practitioner based in Nairn. He is a previous chairman of the BDA's Scottish Dental Practice committee and currently sits on its executive. He is also an elected member of the UK General Dental practice committee and has served as Secretary of Highland LDC since 1990. He is a former director of Highland Dental Plan and a former chairman of Independent care plans (UK), as well as being a regular contributor to the dental press.

Donald said: "I am delighted to be involved with the MDDUS as a non-executive director as it expands its operations south of the border. Having been a member since qualification, I greatly appreciate the service that the union provides.

"Throughout my dental career I have been actively involved at local, national and UK level in striving to improve the terms and conditions of my GDP colleagues.

"My new role as non executive director will enable me to continue to support my colleagues at a strategic level in the company at a time when the dental profession is coming under increasing pressure from outside agencies."

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For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

#### **Note to editors**

MDDUS is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medicolegal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).