

Alister consults in strategy development and futures thinking with clients in the government, private and higher education sectors. He works with senior management teams to help them identify what's driving change; to understand what that change means for their current and future ambition; and to develop and implement the strategies they need to secure long term competitive advantage. He has worked with central and devolved administrations, providing strategy and policy advice and helping departments and agencies develop and practice foresight.

Alister is the author of the Government Office for Science's Futures Toolkit and provides training in futures thinking for practitioners in government and its partners.



Qualifications: BSc in Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh
 PhD in Developmental Biology, University of Warwick

Recent career

2002 - 2020 **Waverley Management Consultants Ltd.** *Director*

Alister established Waverley in 2002 after a number of years working in a larger consulting firm. Current and recent projects include

- Supporting the Scottish Government to develop and roll out scenarios for COVID-19 recovery and renewal
- Developing the Scottish Government's [AI Strategy](#) to 2025
- Working with the [Office of the Future Generations Commissioner in Wales](#) to develop their Futures Live Lab process
- Conducting futures work with Welsh Government
- Writing the [Futures Toolkit](#) for the UK's Government Office of Science and providing training in futures thinking for practitioners in government and its partners
- Conducting horizon scanning for Aberdeen University and Heriot-Watt University and supporting development of each university's strategic plan
- Conducting horizon scanning and scenario development for local government in Gwent
- Working with a number of research councils to develop the UK research and innovation roadmap
- Delivering a series of workshops for NERC with key stakeholders around the UK to prioritise long term environmental science issues in the context of Brexit

Previous Career

1999 - 2002 **Frontline Consultants** *Senior Consultant*

Alister provided futures and general consultancy to clients in the public sector. During this time, Alister was seconded to the Department of Trade and Industry to set up and develop futures programmes in the futurefocus@dti facility, a bespoke futures laboratory in Whitehall.

1987 - 1999 **SDA/Scottish Enterprise** *Latterly Head of Skills Policy*

Alister worked in technology transfer, policy evaluation and was a member of SE's Strategic Futures Team. He became Head of Skills Policy in 1998.

1984 - 1987 **Beecham Pharmaceuticals** *Development Scientist*

Member of a team working on strain improvement to improve antibiotic production.