

**Surgeon Commander  
Rob O'Donnell  
Royal Navy Reserve**

**Commanding Officer  
HMS SCOTIA**



Surgeon Commander Rob O'Donnell joined the Maritime Reserves in 2016. Originally joining HMS PRESIDENT, he then transferred to HMS DALRIADA having relocated to Glasgow. Quickly joining DALRIADA's Senior Management Team, he successfully undertook the roles of First Lieutenant and then Initial Naval Training Officer.

In parallel to these unit roles, he is also an active member of the Maritime Reserve Medical Branch and was appointed as SO2 Medical Officers in 2021. In this role he helped oversee the Medical Branch's centralisation within HMS FORWARD and its successful transformation into a capability. He also regularly supports the delivery of Tri-Service Medical Education, acting as Medical Director for Advanced Life Support Courses delivered at the Institute of Naval Medicine.

In 2021 he completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Maritime Reserves). He then went on to complete the Advanced Command and Staff Course (Reserves) in 2022, where he was selected to return as Directing Staff.

In October 2022 he transferred to HMS SCOTIA to take over the role of Executive Officer, whilst continuing in post as SO2 Medical Officers. Following promotion to Surgeon Commander in July 2023, he took over as Commanding Officer of HMS SCOTIA on 07 September 2023.

Rob graduated from the University in Glasgow in 2011 with a degree in Medicine. He also holds a Master of Science degree with Distinction in Pain Management from the University of Edinburgh as well as Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and Associate Fellowship of the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management. His civilian role is as a Consultant Anaesthetist within the NHS, working at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. His subspecialist interests include the management of major trauma, anaesthesia for emergency surgery and obstetric anaesthesia. He is also the Anaesthetic Department's Lead for both Blood Transfusion and Obstetric Quality Improvement.

He is married with primary school aged twins. In the small amount of free time that he has between family, the NHS and the Maritime Reserves, he enjoys alpine skiing and has been attempting to learn French (with limited success) for a number of years.