

The Times obituary of David Miller CBE 16th June 2020.

From personnel director with one of Britain's biggest companies to playing a significant and influential role in the development of the modern Scottish education system, David Miller faced vastly different challenges during his working life.

In a 30-year career with J&P Coats, subsequently Coats Viyella, he had responsibility for 100,000 employees worldwide, but his compassion and emotional intelligence were felt at all levels in the company, encouraging former apprentices to earn promotion, guiding junior managers at times of stress and providing fellow directors with discreet support.

In 1991, four years into a well-earned retirement, having served in a number of non-executive roles across a range of sectors, Miller took on what was to become one of his toughest jobs: the creation of a new organisation to modernise Scotland's examinations system.

His business career was good preparation for a second career as an educationalist, with a distinguished decade as a governor of his old school (Edinburgh Academy), a commissioner of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, chairman of the Stirling University Court — where his support and advice was available to all members of staff — then Clackmannan College, Fairbridge Scotland and Outward Bound, Locheil. On the board of the Scottish College of Textiles he was able to combine his interest in education with his industry knowledge.

In 1995 Michael Forsyth, then secretary of state for Scotland, appointed him to bring together the ScotVec training agency and the Scottish Examinations Board to produce one body and in April 1997 the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) was born with Miller as its first chairman.

He was appointed CBE for services to education in 1997 and received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Stirling and the West of Scotland. A competitive tennis and squash player and keen angler, he also became a knowledgeable and enthusiastic gardener.

David and his wife Saffrey lived in Callendar, Perthshire.

He was born in 1935 and died on 24 April 2020. He joined the Livery in 1983.