



Cyber & Specialist
Operations Command

Professor Jason Leitch CBE FRCS

Chief of Defence Medical



Professor Jason Leitch is a senior healthcare leader with extensive experience in clinical practice, public service, quality improvement, health policy and large-scale system transformation.

He served as National Clinical Director for the Scottish Government from 2015 to 2024, providing clinical leadership across NHS Scotland and advising ministers on health policy, quality and safety. He previously led major national improvement programmes, including the Scottish Patient Safety Programme, and has held senior leadership roles across healthcare, government and academia. He also served as the Scottish Government's Veterans' Champion.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he became one of Scotland's most prominent health communicators, providing clinical advice to government and stakeholders and regularly explaining complex health issues through national television, radio and other media.

Jason trained in dentistry and was a consultant oral surgeon. He has held academic appointments and has worked extensively in healthcare improvement, leadership development and system redesign in the UK and internationally. He has advised governments and healthcare organisations around the world and spoken widely on healthcare quality. He holds a doctorate and a Master of Public Health, as well as a number of surgical fellowships. He was appointed CBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to healthcare and charity.

Most recently, he has worked as an independent healthcare adviser and leadership consultant, supporting organisations in the UK and overseas on quality, improvement and transformation.

He joins Defence Medical Command as Chief of Defence Medical, bringing experience of clinical leadership, government, organisational change and public communication to the role.