

**For immediate release**



**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

**The Institute of Directors appoints Board Apprentice Founder and Chair, Charlotte Valeur, as its new Chair**

Board Apprentice is delighted to welcome the appointment of its very own Founder and Chair, Charlotte Valeur, to the role of Chair of the Institute of Directors.

Aside the many challenges that the IoD addresses for its community and UK plc, we were delighted to hear Charlotte say: "It's imperative that people of all backgrounds know that the world of business is not a closed shop, and the IoD has a major part to play in achieving this. Firms draw strength from their diversity of perspective, while the good standing of business leaders in society relies upon the route to the top being open to all." Charlotte takes office on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.

**Stephen Martin, Director General of the IoD, said:**

"I'm delighted to welcome Charlotte as our new Chair. She brings with her an impressive range of experience, gained by leading businesses of different sizes and sectors... I know that Charlotte's insight and genuine commitment to good governance will ensure we are perfectly placed to lead as we begin a fresh chapter in the Institute's history...On top of this, Charlotte doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to diversity. With Board Apprentice she has already made a genuine difference, and I'm sure she will continue in this vein as Chair of the IoD."

[Read more here from The Institute of Directors \(IoD\): https://www.iod.com/news-campaigns/press-office/details/iod-appoints-corporate-governance-expert-and-diversity-champion-as-new-chair](https://www.iod.com/news-campaigns/press-office/details/iod-appoints-corporate-governance-expert-and-diversity-champion-as-new-chair)

**ENDS**

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Images:

Charlotte Valeur



The Institute of Directors, Pall Mall



**Notes for editors/media contacts:**

1. **Board Apprentice** is a global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to increasing diversity on boards, and as a result board quality. This is achieved by widening the pool of board-ready talent, creating a pipeline of diversifying board members and, thereby, developing tomorrow's board members today
2. The **Board Apprentice** programme provides a practical and powerful way to develop and nurture emerging and senior talent and to signal a commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is delivered in close co-operation with boards and organisations around the world – so that boards themselves are part of the solution and provide 'access to opportunity'. In addition, it seeks to break the closed loop of: "You can't be on a board, unless you are on a board."
3. **Board Apprentice** achieves this by being open to suitable, high-calibre, diversifying individuals and allows them to take part in a one year 'educational placement' (alongside their existing role) to gain practical insight into the operations and dynamics of a board. Post formal application, these apprentices are identified and interviewed by a selection committee to assess their suitability as a future Non-Executive Director (NED) before being assigned to a host board.
4. **Board Apprentice** formally launched in the UK at the House of Lords on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 and is present in 9 other territories around the world. Up to 2017, our board apprentices have attended over 345 board meetings and spent over 3,115 hours in board education. Most crucially, over 50% of board apprentices become board members within a year of their apprenticeship.
5. **Board Apprentice** is in the unique position as being the only practical solution that Boards themselves can implement to improve diversity and quality as highlighted in three reviews. Firstly, the [Future Boards Scheme in partnership with UK Government Investments and the 30% Club for senior executive women as part of the Government's Hampton-Alexander Review of women on FTSE boards](#); secondly as part of [Sir John Parker's Review of ethnic diversity of FTSE boards](#); and, most recently, as a practical solution for [disability and Boards in the review from KPMG and Purple](#).
6. **Board Apprentice** believes that diversity goes beyond the visible diversifying aspects such as gender, ethnicity, age and physical disability to include less apparent aspects such as: personality, outlook, experience, thought, social background, skill set, among others. This broad view of diversity and inclusion provides a range of rich perspectives and experiences. The resulting healthy debate and challenge leads to better-informed decisions. This reinforces good corporate governance, succession planning and corporate responsibility and results in superior performance.

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