



# Membership of Council

## 2024-25

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# Membership of Council

## Ex Officio members

### Pro-Chancellors

Melanie Leech, CBE MA FRSA MIOd, CBE MA FRSA MIOd

Paul Jackson, BSc (Eng) CEng FIET FIMA

Dr Adam Wright, PhD

### Acting Vice-Chancellor

Professor Maria Fasli, Certificate in Education, BSc, PhD

### Treasurer

Alan Newman MA FCA

### Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Lorna Fox O'Mahony, LLB PhD PGCHET (until 3 August 2024)

### Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Neil Kellard, BA MSc PhD (from 4 August 2024)

### President of the Students' Union

Lily-May Cameron

## Elected members from amongst the Academic Staff

Four academic staff members of the Senate elected by the Senate:

Dr Laurie James-Hawkins, BA MA PhD

Professor Shane Martin, BA (Mod) MBS PhD

Professor Onyeka Osuji, LLB BCL PhD

Professor Faten Ghosn, BA MA PhD

## **Elected staff members from amongst the Professional Services staff**

Zoe Manning, BA MSc

## **External Members**

Julie Bentley, MBA

Obum Ekeke, OBE MSc MBA

Robert Hale, BSc

Simon Hall, MBE DL MA

Dr Ajit Menon, DProf

Lesley Smith

Mickola Wilson, BSc

## **Observer**

Russell Sheldon, BSc

**Julie Bentley, MBA**

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**



**Biography**

Julie has been a charity CEO for twenty years and has led some of the UK’s most well-known charities including Action for Children, Girlguiding, Family Planning Association and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. She has been a Trustee and Vice Chair of the housing and homelessness charity Shelter and National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Julie is currently CEO of Samaritans. She is also a Trustee of the charity Action for Happiness.

Julie began her career as a youth worker and in the early 90’s worked in some of the most deprived parts of SE London, working with young drug users and those involved in crime.

Through her career Julie has earned a reputation for her passionate advocacy of the voices of those with lived experience being at the heart of service provision and for her commitment to meaningful equity and inclusion.

In 2014, she was named as ‘Most Admired Charity CEO’ and in the same year was a castaway for BBC Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs. In 2019, she was awarded The Charity Times Awards for ‘Outstanding Individual Achievement’ and was voted by Charity Times readers as one of the charity sector’s Most Influential Leaders.

In 2020 Julie co-curated a book on experiences of sibling loss following the death of her brother. Julie grew up in rural Essex and has recently returned there after 26 years of living in SE London. She holds an MBA which she undertook as a mature student with Open University.

Membership	Tenure
Observer	01/08/2023 – 31/12/2023
External	01/01/2024 – 31/12/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- CEO, Samaritans, (Company Number 757372/219432)

### Other connections/appointments

- Anglia Ruskin University – In Partnership with Samaritans in delivery of a listening service from the University location.

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: To be confirmed

## Lily-May Cameron, BSc

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**

### Biography

Lily-May currently serves as the President of the University of Essex Students' Union. She graduated from the University's Government department with a BSc in Politics and International Relations. During her studies, Lily-May spent a year abroad at Luiss Guido Carli in Rome, further enriching her academic experience.

Before taking on the role of SU President, Lily-May was a Communications Frontrunner Intern at Essex Abroad and served as a Student Trustee for Essex Students' Union for three years. She is particularly passionate about amplifying the Student Voice and promoting Sustainability initiatives within the university community.

### Membership

Ex Officio

### Tenure

01/07/2024 - 30/06/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- President, University of Essex Students' Union

### Other connections/appointments

None

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: 07/08/2024

## Obum Ekeke, OBE MSc MBA

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### Biography

Obum has dedicated the vast majority of his 20+ years career to supporting students across the world develop the critical skills they need to thrive in the rapidly changing world. He's committed to building a tech community where people from all backgrounds can contribute to using technology to solve humanity's most pressing problems and for widespread society benefit.

Obum currently leads educational programmes and partnerships at DeepMind, aimed at building a stronger, diverse and more inclusive Artificial Intelligence community. Before joining DeepMind, Obum spent 12 years at Google, where he led international educational and technical skills development programmes in partnership with universities, NGOs and governments.

**Obum Ekeke, OBE MSc MBA**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



Obum is a trustee of UK Youth - a leading national charity committed to ensuring all young people are empowered to build bright futures, regardless of their background or circumstances.

In 2019, Obum was featured in FT's top 10 most influential BAME leaders in the UK tech sector.

He received an OBE in 2022 for services to Computing and Artificial Intelligence education and to Championing Diversity and Inclusion in the tech sector.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/8/2021 – 31/7/2027



## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Head of Education Partnerships, DeepMind

### Other connections/appointments

- Director and shareholder, KCO Properties Ltd (Company No 12509775)
- Director and Trustee, UK Youth (Company No 05402004) (Charity No 1110590)
- Director, Jifunz Ltd (Company No 14484979)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## Professor Maria Fasli

### Pronoun: she, her, and hers

### Biography

Maria Fasli is the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex and a Professor in Computer Science specialising in Artificial Intelligence (AI). She took over the role on 1 August 2024. Maria obtained her BSc in Informatics from the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Department of Informatics, Greece in 1996. She obtained her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Essex in 2000.

Maria started as a Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Essex in January 2000 and she has held a range of roles within the University. She was the Head of the School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering (2009-14) and the founding Director of the Institute for Analytics and Data Science (IADS) (2014-19). Prior to her current role, Maria was the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health.

Maria's research interests lie in AI and she has published extensively in conferences and journals in the field. Her research has been funded by Research Councils and other organisations and she has worked with companies and public sector organisations in data analytics and AI related projects. She

## Professor Maria Fasli

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**

has been the Director of the ESRC funded Business and Local Government Data Research Centre (BLG DRC) since 2018 and has worked with multidisciplinary teams and a range of stakeholders on developing and applying AI techniques in different settings. In 2016, she was awarded the first UNESCO Chair in Analytics and Data Science to support the development of skills and research capacity in data science, analytics and AI across the world. She is passionate about education and in 2005, she was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) by the Higher Education Academy UK for her novel approaches to education and supporting the student experience.

### Membership

Acting Vice-Chancellor

### Tenure

01/08/2024 – 31/07/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- To be confirmed

### Other connections/appointments

- To be confirmed

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

N/A

## Professor Faten Ghosn, PhD

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**

### Biography

## Professor Faten Ghosn, PhD

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**

Professor Ghosn received her BA and MA from the American University of Beirut, and her Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University. She also completed the Oxford's Women Leadership Development Program certificate and has a mediation certificate. She is currently the Head of the Department of Government and non-residential fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona, a Coach Mediator for Interaction Management Associates, and an expert in conflict management and resolution. Her research focuses on what strategies conflict actors deploy to manage their conflicts and disagreements, how such strategies are implemented, their effectiveness as well as their consequences. She has received several research awards, including a Minerva Initiative funded by the Department of Defense and The U.S. Army Research Office, and the National Science Foundation. She has published in numerous academic and policy outlets. Her current research focuses on enemy images as obstacles to cooperation, ethics in fieldwork, forced migration, post-conflict recovery, and transitional justice.

### Membership

Elected members from amongst the Academic Staff

### Tenure

01/08/2024 – 31/07/2027

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Head of the Department of Government

### Other connections/appointments

- None

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

N/A

**Robert Hale, BSc**

**Pronoun: He, him, and his**

**Biography**

Rob brings over 25 years of business experience in global financial markets, having worked in London, New York, and Hong Kong. For the past 17 years, he has held pivotal leadership roles at Lloyds Banking Group (LBG). Notably, Rob spearheaded the creation of the Markets division at Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets (LBCM) in line with ring-fencing regulations. As Head of Financial Markets, Rob manages strategy, governance, performance, and culture across the business unit, directly reporting to the LBCM CEO. Additionally, Rob co-chairs the Markets Platform Board, overseeing a significant annual investment budget and driving transformative and technology initiatives.

Rob's industry influence extends to his roles as a Board member of the Financial Markets Standards Board and the Global Foreign Exchange Division, where he collaborates with leaders and regulators to enhance accountability, transparency, and governance. Dedicated to promoting diversity and breaking down systemic barriers, he designed and launched the first Markets Apprentice Programme at Lloyds, creating new pathways into sales and trading roles. Additionally, Rob serves as a Trustee for Tutors United, a charity improving educational opportunities for children from low-income and migrant backgrounds through affordable tutoring.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2024 – 31/07/2027

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- To be confirmed

### Other connections/appointments

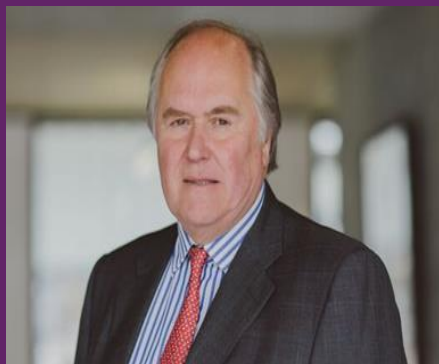
- To be confirmed

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

N/A

## Simon Hall, MBE DL MA

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### Biography

Simon was educated at Ampleforth College, York and St Catherine's College Cambridge.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1979 and trained with the international law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and was a partner in the company from 1985 to 2014. He was head of their Finance Practice, sat on the Partnership Council and was head of their global corporate responsibility's programmes.

Simon was a past trustee of a number of charities, including in the fields of education and social inclusion, including St Marys School, Career Academies UK; currently a trustee of Mistley Maltings Trust, Brentwood Cathedral Choral Trust, Colchester and Northeast Essex Building Preservation

**Simon Hall, MBE DL MA**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



Trust, Caritas Anchor House, and an adviser to Ampleforth College. He has been invited to be a trustee of the Essex Community Foundation.

Simon was awarded an MBE in 2006.

He is Editor and a contributor of a number of editions of Aircraft Financing and a contributor to Leasing Finance, both published by Euromoney.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2016 – 31/07/2019
	01/08/2019 – 31/08/2022
	01/08/2022 – 31/07/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

None

### Other connections/appointments

- Director, University of Essex Knowledge Gateway Ltd (Company No. 04392361) and University of Essex Knowledge Gateway Holdings Ltd (Company No. 04344952)
- Chairman, Company Secretary, shareholder, Qualification Check Limited (Company No. 06097472)
- Director and shareholder, Rowley Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers Limited (Company No. 04129726)
- Director and shareholder, Kudocs Limited (Company No. 09611371)
- Director and Trustee, Colchester and Northeast Essex Building Preservation Trust (Company No. 03020005, Charity No. 1044514)
- Trustee, Brentwood Diocesan Cathedral and Choral Trust Fund (Charity No. 1056374)
- Director and Trustee, Essex Community Foundation (Company No. 03062567, Charity No. 1052061)
- Chair, Your Place (London) Ltd (previously Caritas Anchor House) (Company No. 08075329, Charity No 1147794) and Director, Caritas Anchor House Learning and Development Academy Ltd (Company No 09160240)
- Shareholder, Data Discovery Solutions Limited (Company No. 06748735)
- Deputy Lieutenant of Essex
- Patron, Open Road Visions (Charity No 1019915), Wilderness Foundation (Charity No. 1118493), University of Essex Choir (Charity No 285079), Vice President CPRE Essex
- Son – Shareholder/Director, Qualification Check Limited (Company No. 06097472)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## **Paul Jackson, (Pro-Chancellor) BSc (Eng) Ceng FIET FIMA**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### **Biography**

Paul Jackson is currently a non-executive director at the Infrastructure Intelligence Unit and Executive Director of Jasia Education Ltd where he is developing themes for industrial strategy and education policy and supporting charities in strategy reviews and fundraising.

As part of this work, Paul has recently led a study into the skills need for engineering in the future called Talent 2050 on behalf of the National Centre for Universities and Business.

Paul was previously Chief Executive of EngineeringUK (formerly The Engineering and Technology Board). Paul led the organisation through the development of The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair and Tomorrow's Engineers, a careers engagement programme in schools and colleges. He has been an active commentator on education and skills in the media.

Paul has held a variety of roles in technology-based business, encompassing contract R&D, the media, the charity sector and local government. Paul spent the early part of his career at ERA Technology before moving into technology media. After a series of progressive roles within United Business Media, he moved to the Institution of Engineering and Technology, later becoming Director of Professional Operations. He subsequently established JASIA as a company to support membership and media organisations in their strategic development.

Non-executive roles have included the International Broadcasting Convention Partnerships Board, Board of CIRED, the Advisory Committee for the Electricity Distribution Community, and Technical Director of EUREL. He is currently a Council member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee All-Party Group, Chair of Governors at Kingsford Community School in Newham and Chair of the



**Paul Jackson, (Pro-Chancellor) BSc (Eng) Ceng FIET FIMA**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



Corporation at Newham College. Paul is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2017 – 31/07/2019
	01/08/2019 – 31/07/2022
	01/08/2022 – 31/07/2025
Pro-Chancellor	01/08/2020 – 31/07/2022
	01/08/2022 – 31/07/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Director and shareholder, Jasia Education Ltd (Company No. 10956900)
- Director, Infrastructure Intelligence Unit Ltd (Company No. 08808671)

### Other connections/appointments

- Corporation Chair – Newham College
- Newham Corporation Chair – London City Institute of Technology
- Chair, Wivenhoe House Hotel Ltd (Company No 07075571)
- Chair, University of Essex Campus Services Ltd (Company No 02534817)
- Co-chair residents' forum – City University London
- Spouse – Chair of Governors – Southwark College
- Spouse – Chairs of Trustees – Stratford Academy School

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

**Dr Laurie James-Hawkins, BA MA PhD**

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**



**Biography**

Dr Laurie James-Hawkins is the Social Science Faculty Dean for Undergraduate Education, a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Sociology, and Deputy Director for the Centre for Intimate and Sexual Citizenship (CISC) at the University of Essex. She is a Sociologist of health and gender, and her research interests include sexual consent, reproductive health, contraception, abortion, gender, sexuality, and hookup culture among emerging adults. Educated in the United States, Dr James-Hawkins holds a BA in psychology from Mills College, an MA in social psychology and a PhD in Sociology with a concentration in health from the University of Colorado Boulder, and was a postdoctoral fellow in Gender, Family and Global Health at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Dr James-Hawkins came to Essex in 2017 and currently serves on the University Senate. Dr James-Hawkins has a background and training in executive management, research ethics, retirement plans, and finance.

Membership	Tenure
Elected members from amongst the Academic Staff	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Faculty Dean of Undergraduate Social Sciences, University of Essex

### Other connections/appointments

None

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: To be confirmed

## Professor Neil Kellard

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**

### Biography

Neil M Kellard is Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Finance at the University of Essex. Previous roles include Dean and Head of the Finance Group for Essex Business School. Neil is also an Honorary Academic Fellow at the Centre for Responsible Banking and Finance, University of St Andrews, an Advisory Editor for the International Journal of Finance and Economics, an Associate Editor for the European Journal of Finance, and an Editorial Board member for the British Journal of Management.

Neil's current research interests include commodity prices, exchange rates, environmental finance, innovation, cryptocurrencies, financial econometrics and forecasting, efficiency and risk measurement, corporate governance, health, gender, impact, and inequality. He has published several papers in international journals such as the Review of Economics and Statistics, the British Journal of Management, Social Science and Medicine, and the Journal of International Money and Finance. He has also coauthored a recent Routledge book on research impact. Neil's research has been cited by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization amongst others, and his research work was the subject of a REF 2021 Impact Case Study.

Membership	Tenure
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor	04/08/2024 – 31/07/2025

**Declaration of interests**

**Remunerated appointments**

- To be confirmed

**Other connections/appointments**

- To be confirmed

**Related Party Transactions Declaration**

N/A

Melanie Leech, CBE MA FRSA Miod

Pronoun: she, her, and hers



Biography

Melanie joined the British Property Federation as Chief Executive in January 2015. Her role is to represent and support a diverse, successful and sustainable real estate industry. She is also a Trustee of the property industry charity LandAid.

Prior to joining the BPF, Melanie spent nine years as Director General of the Food and Drink Federation. She began her working life as a Police Constable in the Metropolitan Police Service. She joined the civil service (HM Customs and Excise) in 1988 and subsequently held senior roles in a number of departments including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Office of the Rail Regulator and the Cabinet Office.

She was awarded the CBE in 2015 for services to the food and drink industry.

Membership	Tenure
External	04/04/2019 – 31/07/2021
	01/08/2021 – 31/07/2024
Chair of Council designate	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2024
Chair of Council	01/08/2024 – 31/07/2027

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Chief Executive and Director, British Property Federation (Company No. 00778293) and British Property Federation Commercial (Company No. 03672922)

### Other connections/appointments

- Director and Trustee, LandAid Charitable Trust Limited (Company number 02049135) (Charity No 295157)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## Zoe Manning, BA MSc

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**



### Biography

Zoe has been employed at the University of Essex for 18 years and has been the Southend Campus Manager for 11 years previously responsible for European and regional development funds as Funding Manager. As Campus Manager she is a member of a number of University-wide groups covering student experience, conduct and complaint investigation, health and safety, space management, project coordination, climate and ecological emergency, critical incident planning and management etc. Zoe is also one of two University Directors on the board of Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Limited, the management company for The Forum in Southend as well as representing the University on a number of external stakeholder groups in Southend.

Zoe has prior experience in economic development in the local authority, European and external funding with both the Royal National Institute of Blind People and Anglia Ruskin University.

Zoe has a MSc in Management and a BSc in Modern Languages and European Studies.

Membership	Tenure
Elected members from amongst the Professional Services Staff	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026



## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Campus Manager, Southend Campus, University of Essex

### Other connections/appointments

- Director, Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Limited (Company No. - 07830172)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## Professor Shane Martin, BA (Mod) MBS PhD

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### Biography

Professor Shane Martin is Dean of Postgraduate Research and Education at the University of Essex where he also holds the Anthony King Chair in Comparative Government. Between August 2019 and December 2022, he served as Head of the Department of Government.

Shane is passionate about the transformational power of education, having himself been a first-in-family University student. Educated at Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University, he then moved to the United States for his first academic job. Shane came to Essex in 2017, having previously taught at the University of Leicester, Dublin City University, the Pennsylvania State University, and the University of California, San Diego.

**Professor Shane Martin, BA (Mod) MBS PhD**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



Shane is an internationally recognised expert on parliaments, executive-legislative relations and legislative oversight of public policy. In addition to his academic writing, he has advised parliaments around the world on how to be more effective. At Essex, his first initiative as Head of Department was to establish a Department of Government First Generation Programme.

Membership	Tenure
Elected members from amongst the Academic Staff	1/8/2023 – 31/7/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Dean of Postgraduate Research and Education, University of Essex

### Other connections/appointments

- Trustee and Executive Committee Member, European Consortium for Political Research (Charity No. 1167403)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## Dr Ajit Menon, DProf

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### Biography

Ajit is an established business leader working at senior levels in diverse industries and organisations. With a specialisation in the financial services sector, he has driven large scale change in several big and small businesses. With expert competence in developing people strategy, leadership, and organisation development, and working with change and culture, Ajit brings a combination of strategic thinking and implementation excellence. He is well versed with the regulatory landscape and contributes to the FCA's thinking on culture.

Having founded and built a business, Ajit brings strong entrepreneurial skills and business acumen. He is adept at working with the C-Suite to translate their strategic goals into key people objectives that deliver business results. He can make quick decisions and facilitate, challenge and influence at all levels by bringing commercial insights and spotting opportunities for targeted people solutions.

**Dr Ajit Menon, DProf**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



Ajit is an EMCC certified executive coach with extensive experience coaching at CXO levels. He also has experience of leading teams of professionals and SMEs. Ajit was the talent and wellbeing Governor for Riverside School, a specialist SEN school in London. He is currently external member of Council and Trustee of the University of Essex. He is widely published as an expert in the field and teaches as visiting faculty in various universities such as University College London, London School of Economics and the Tavistock and NHS Portman Trust.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Head of People and Organisation, Investec PLC
- Visiting Faculty Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust

### Other connections/appointments

- AVJ Limited, 5 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon, England, OX14 3PX

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: To be confirmed

## Alan Newman, MA FCA

Pronoun: he, him, and his



### Biography

Alan is a chartered accountant with wide experience in commercial management and as a business adviser. He is a NED and audit committee chair of Future plc, a leading UK media group, listed in FTSE 250.

Alan was formerly Chief Financial Officer of Ebiquity plc, a media investment consultancy (2019-23) and of YouGov plc, the global market research and data analytics group (2008-2017) both listed on AIM. He is also a former Chair of Freud Museum London. Before joining YouGov, Alan was a partner at EY and previously at KPMG Consulting, where he advised businesses in the media,

**Alan Newman, MA FCA**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



technology and telecoms sector. Alan studied Modern Languages (French and Spanish) at Cambridge University and served a year as sabbatical Deputy President of the Cambridge University Students Union.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026
Treasurer Designate	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2024
Treasurer	01/08/2024 – 31/07/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- NED / ARC Chair, Future plc (Company No 03757874)

### Other connections/appointments

- Director Newlawns Ltd (Company No. 04693439)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: To be confirmed

## Professor Onyeka Osuji, LLB BCL PhD

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



### Biography

Professor Onyeka Osuji (PhD (Manchester), BCL (Oxon), LLB (Nigeria), BL, FHEA, FAcSS) is a Professor of Law and Dean of Essex Law School, University of Essex which is ranked 3rd in the UK for research power in law (THE research power measure, REF2021) and global 47th/ UK 9th in THE World University Rankings 2023. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and, after obtaining a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, have been a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy since 2008.

Professor Osuji holds law degrees from the University of Manchester (as a School of Law Scholar), University of Oxford (as a Shell Centenary/FCO Chevening Scholar) and University of Nigeria. He previously practised in corporate and commercial law before becoming an academic. He is qualified

**Professor Onyeka Osuji, LLB BCL PhD**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



as a barrister and solicitor of Nigeria and a (non-practising) solicitor of England and Wales and has advised individuals, corporations, and national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Focusing on business and governance, Professor Osuji has led research projects, presented papers in several international conferences and published extensively in books and reputable international journals in the areas of corporate governance, corporate regulation, corporate responsibility, consumer protection, non-financial reporting, contract law, commercial law, commercial conflict of laws and multinational enterprises. He has taught postgraduate and undergraduate students at various UK institutions and has successfully supervised several PhD students in those areas.

Professor Osuji’s recent publications include Corporate Social Responsibility Across the Globe: Innovative Resolution of Regulation and Governance Challenges (CUP, 2023) with F. Ngwu, Corporate Social Responsibility in Developing and Emerging Markets: Institutions, Actors and Sustainable Development (CUP, 2020), Enhancing Board Effectiveness: Institutional, Regulatory and Functional Perspectives for Developing and Emerging Markets (Routledge, 2019), Corporate Governance in Developing and Emerging Markets (Routledge, 2016) and Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation (Routledge, 2013).

Membership	Tenure
Elected members from amongst the Academic Staff	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026



## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- Dean of Essex Law School, University of Essex

### Other connections/appointments

- Academic Advisory Board Member, Kuwait International Law School

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

**Russell Sheldon, BSc**

**Pronoun: He, him, and his**



**Biography**

Russell is a Senior Executive and Board Advisor with over 20 years experience leading global, multi-disciplined teams, and a proven track record of success delivering sustainable and rapid cost and quality of delivery improvements, defining, and delivering globally focused digital and transformative technology solutions aimed at creating competitive business advantage, and establishing and supporting compelling market and client propositions. Russell is currently the Chief Operations and Technology Officer at TMF Group, a private equity owned, multinational financial & professional services firm that provides accounting, tax, payroll, fund administration, compliance, and entity management services to over 8,000 corporates, financial institutions, asset managers, private clients, and family offices in more than 85 countries worldwide. In this role, Russell leads TMF Group’s delivery globally, including day-to-day client service, along with the operational and digital transformation of all services. His wider remit encompasses executive responsibility for strategy, architecture and management of all technology and platforms globally, as well as cyber security. Prior to TMF Group, Russell held senior positions at NGA Human Resources, Axiom, Hewitt Associates and PWC’s BPO division. Biographical details Page 4 of 4 Russell is also a Non-Executive/Trustee of the Hope Learning Community, a multi-academy trust of Special Education Needs schools in North Essex. Russell has a BSc (Hons) in Information Business Systems Technology from the University of Essex.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2025 – 31/07/2028

Membership	Tenure
Observer	01/08/2024 – 31/07/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- None

### Other connections/appointments

- Hope Learning Community (Company Number: 10391530)
- Crs Ventures Limited (Company Number: 12076732)
- Oakhill Management Company (Ipswich) Limited (Company Number: 03803318)

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

N/A

## Lesley Smith, Sloan Master's Degree, MIT

### Biography

Lesley Smith is a corporate affairs professional and board adviser with more than 30 years' experience in corporate communications, investor relations and public affairs for global and FTSE 100 businesses, the voluntary and public sectors. She began her career in political communications. She is a graduate of Essex University (BA Government) and MIT and has been a school, FE college and university governor. She was elected to Brent Council in 2024.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2024 – 31/07/2027

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- None

### Other connections/appointments

- None

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

N/A

## Mickola Wilson, BSc

**Pronoun: she, her, and hers**

## Biography

Mickola Wilson is a highly experienced real estate fund and asset manager, formerly CEO of Teesland plc and MD of Guardian Properties, she is a Director and joint owner of Seven Dials Financial an investment advisory business specialising in real estate fund management and research-based investment strategy. She also has a wide portfolio of roles including, a Non-Executive Director of the Mailbox REIT, Member of the Mercers Company Property Committee and NED at KMPT, the provider of adult mental health services for Kent, and she is a non-executive director of Kalmars Commercial a South London estate agency. Formerly she was a NED at the GPA (Government Property Agency) and Palace Capital plc Real Estate REIT and a member of the investment committee of the Health Foundation. She is also an active member of the Chartered Surveyors Livery company, a Past Master and currently responsible for the Livery's programme of Student Bursaries for students studying Real Estate, from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are sponsored by members of the Real Estate industry.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2026

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- BBRC Homes Ltd, Director (Company No. 14640420)
- University Of Essex Knowledge Gateway Ltd, Director (Company No. 04392361)
- Seven Dials Fund Management Ltd, Director (Company No. 04519655)
- Seven Dials Financials Ltd, Director (Company No. 04961999)
- Seven Dials Light Industrial Ltd, Director ((Company No. 13149488)
- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Non- executive Director
- Mailbox Investment Holdings Plc, Non-Executive Director (Company No. 12524041)
- The Mercers Company-property Committee, Consultant

## Other connections/appointments

- Trustee of The Company of Chartered Surveyors Charitable Trust Fund (1992) Charity Number 1012227
- Husband – employed by Thurrock Council
- Daughter in Law – employed by Writtle University College

## Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: To be confirmed

## Dr Adam Wright, (Pro-Chancellor) PhD

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



## Biography

Adam is Head of Public Policy at the British Academy, the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. He and his team lead the Academy's work bringing together humanities and social science evidence and insights to governments, business, and civil society across a range of public policy areas, including technology and innovation, environmental sustainability, communities and social infrastructure, and public health. Adam has previously worked in senior policy roles at the Royal Society and the National Union of Students, and he has chaired and sat on many advisory committees and strategic groups on research and education policy within the UK higher education sector. He obtained his PhD in Government from the University of Essex in 2013 and has continued

**Dr Adam Wright, (Pro-Chancellor) PhD**

**Pronoun: he, him, and his**



to research and publish on a variety of topics within the fields of political philosophy and public policy. He also chairs the governing body of nearby Hazelmere Junior School.

Membership	Tenure
External	01/08/2016 – 31/07/2019
	01/08/2019 – 31/07/2022
	01/08/2022 – 31/07/2025
Pro-Chancellor	01/08/2023 – 31/07/2025

## Declaration of interests

### Remunerated appointments

- British Academy, Head of Public Policy

### Other connections/appointments

- Chair of Governors, Hazelmere Junior School, Colchester
- Connections to Government departments: Department for Education, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- Connections to HE institutions: UKRI, Royal Society, Nuffield Foundation (member of Understanding Communities Collaboration Steering Group), Royal Academy of Engineering, Academy of Medical Sciences, ESRC (partnership with LPIP hub).

### Related Party Transactions Declaration

I declare that I have no material related party transactions to disclose.

Date: August 2023

## Secretary to Council

Bryn Morris