

# News story: Record number of women on FTSE 100 boards

- Record 309 women on FTSE 100 boards, new data reveals
- A quarter of FTSE 350 board positions now filled by women
- FTSE 100 firms on track to hit target of a third of board positions being filled by women by 2020

New data to mark International Women's Day reveals more women than ever before are on boards of the UK's largest companies.

These figures show 309 positions – almost 29% – of FTSE100 board positions are held by women, up from 12.5% in 2011. In FTSE 350 companies, the number of women chairs has risen from 17 to 20 while the number of women on boards has increased to 25.2%.

If progress matches the same gains made over the last three years then a third of board positions will be filled by women by 2020 – the target set by the Government-backed Hampton-Alexander Review.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths today urged businesses to renew their commitment to tackling gender inequality.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

International Women's Day is about celebrating women's achievements and I am delighted to see that a record number of our largest companies' board positions are now filled by women.

There has been a lot of progress in recent years with high-flying women breaking down barriers to more than double the number of women on FTSE 100 boards but there is still a lot more to do to ensure that women are not held back in the workplace.

Sir Philip Hampton, chair of the Hampton-Alexander Review said:

Today is a day to celebrate the efforts of all women and men who have worked hard to ensure a women's place is absolutely in the boardroom.

British business and the UK economy are all the better for it and we have now created a strong platform on which to build.

Under new laws, over 1,400 companies have reported their gender pay gaps revealing an overall pay gap of 18.4%. All companies with more than 250 employees must report their gender pay gaps by April 4 (30 March for the public sector).

Tackling the gender pay gap is part of the Industrial Strategy Government's long-term plan to build a Britain fit for the future, with the ambition to help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs and ensure everyone can be successful in the workplace. Bridging the gender pay gap could add £150 billion to the UK economy by 2025 .

#### **Notes to Editors:**

Figures for women on boards of FTSE companies published on 6 February by BoardEx, a business intelligence provider, show:

- FTSE 100 is at 28.7% up from 27.7% in October
- FTSE 250 is at 23.4 % up from 22.8%
- FTSE 350 is at 25.2% up from 24.5%
- All-male boards down from 10 to 8
- The number of women Chairs across the FTSE 350 has gone up from 17 to 20

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## **[News story: James 2 and Vertrouwen report and flyers published](#)**

MAIB's report on the collision between the fishing vessel Vertrouwen and the motor cruiser James 2, resulting in the sinking of James 2 with the loss of 3 lives in Sussex Bay on 6 August 2017 is now published.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken and recommendations: [read more](#). This page also contains a short video about the investigation findings.

[Safety flyers to the fishing vessel industry and sea angling community](#) summarising the accident and detailing the safety lessons learned, have also been produced.

### **Press enquiries**

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

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## News story: New UK-Saudi Arabia partnership to boost livelihoods and economic development in world's poorest countries

The UK and Saudi Arabia are building a new long-term partnership to improve livelihoods, boost economic development and create vital infrastructure to support some of the world's poorest people in drought and conflict-stricken countries. This includes a commitment to work together in East Africa, which will in turn strengthen global prosperity.

The partnership – announced during the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia's visit to the UK – is the first of its kind between the Department for International Development and the Saudi Fund for Development. It will see British development experts working closer with Saudi counterparts, including in the Horn and East of Africa where both countries are already helping to lift people out of poverty.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

Global Britain is rightly recognised as an international leader when it comes to helping the most vulnerable, saving lives and tackling global challenges.

The Saudi Fund has a long record of investing in successful development projects around the world. We are sharing the best of British expertise, and our collective efforts will help create jobs and livelihoods to support the poorest people to stand on their own two feet. This in turn will help to boost global prosperity which is in all our interests.

By building critical infrastructure for some of the world's poorest whose lives are threatened by drought, disease and conflict, together we can make a bigger difference and ensure that everyday tasks like collecting drinking water are made much easier.

Today both countries signed the Joint Cooperation Memorandum recognising the collaboration between DFID and KS Relief to strengthen both countries' humanitarian efforts.

During the meeting, the UK noted that it was encouraged by the easing of restrictions into Yemen to ensure vital food and other supplies get through Hodeidah and Saleef ports to those in need.

While the UK recognises Saudi Arabia's legitimate security concerns and will continue to provide support to prevent illegal arms smuggling into Yemen,

there is no excuse to prevent humanitarian and commercial supplies from reaching those in need.

This builds on the International Development Secretary's visit to Saudi Arabia in December, where she called on all parties to the conflict in Yemen to restore and maintain full access for humanitarian and commercial imports and find a peaceful solution to stop Yemen falling into famine.

#### Notes to Editors

- Both the UK and Saudi Arabia are already providing support to progress economic development across the East and Horn of Africa. Today's partnership will see a joint commitment of £100 million between the two countries to further these efforts – the UK's contribution will include allocations from existing country budgets.

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## News story: Public Health England statement regarding events in Salisbury

Public Health England statement regarding events in Salisbury – GOV.UK

Summary of public health actions and advice on the ongoing incident involving 2 people in Salisbury.



Paul Cosford, Medical Director and Director of Health Protection at Public Health England (PHE) said:

All known first responders have been contacted through their organisations and encouraged to seek further advice should they experience any symptoms. The sites recently visited by the 2 people affected have all been secured and PHE is reminding local clinicians of the symptoms to look out for.

Based on current evidence, the risk to the wider public is low and it is likely that, had any member of the public been exposed to the substance, they would have presented with symptoms by now. However, anyone who was in the area and is concerned because they feel unwell, should dial 111 or 999 depending on the severity of their symptoms.

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Thank you for your feedback