

Press release: David Sweeney appointed Executive Chair Designate of Research England

The Higher Education and Research Bill, subject to Parliamentary approval, proposes to establish Research England as a Council of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), to undertake the England only research and knowledge exchange functions currently performed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

During the transition to UKRI David will continue in his current role as Director of Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange within HEFCE alongside working as part of the shadow UKRI executive team to set up the new organisation. David will then transition to become the first Executive Chair of Research England upon the creation of UKRI in April 2018.

Research England will oversee the England-only functions in relation to research and knowledge exchange, including providing grant funding to English universities for research and knowledge exchange activities, developing and implementing the Research Excellence Framework in partnership with the UK Higher Education (HE) funding bodies, oversight of sustainability of the HE research base in England and overseeing the £900 million UK Research Partnership Investment Fund. This will secure and enhance the role of the dual support funding system for research, the protection of which will be enshrined in legislation for the first time as part of these reforms.

Announcing the appointment Science Minister Jo Johnson said:

David's contribution to the UK's world renowned science and innovation sector will ensure he will establish a strong, strategic vision for Research England. The appointment demonstrates the outstanding leadership he's shown to the Higher Education Funding Council for England, and his extensive experience will be vital to the creation of UK Research and Innovation.

Sir Mark Walport, UKRI Chief Executive Designate said:

I am delighted that David Sweeney will continue his fine work that he has been undertaking at HEFCE when he becomes the first Research England Executive Chair in UKRI, subject to Parliament.

David Sweeney, Executive Chair Designate of Research England said:

I am delighted to be taking on this role. The UK's research system

is among the very best globally, with over 90% of our world-leading publications having university authorship. The partnerships between our universities and business, health, cultural and social organisations are central to economic growth as well as social and cultural impact. Research England will be an advocate to government on behalf of universities and challengers to universities to deliver to national agendas. The strategic decisions which universities make are central to the future of cities, regions, the nation and our world.

Research England will work with the other councils in UKRI to enhance our global research position and will liaise with the funding bodies in the devolved organisations to contribute at UK as well as England only level. We will also collaborate with the Office for Students as teaching and research agendas in universities are intrinsically linked to deliver both the highly-skilled graduates and new knowledge which our nation needs.

The role of executive chairs will be crucial to the ambition for UKRI to be a world-leading research and innovation organisation. Each of the 9 councils that will be part of UKRI will be led by an executive chair, a role which will combine the responsibilities of the current chair and chief executive of each council.

1) The Higher Education and Research Bill proposes the creation of a new body – UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) – that will be the strategic centre of the UK's research and innovation funding system. It will provide a strong and unified voice championing UK research and innovation, facilitating dialogue with government and partners on the global stage. The Bill also establishes 9 Councils within UKRI – 7 of the Councils reflect the functions of the existing Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

2) David Sweeney is a statistician and Director (Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange) at the Higher Education Funding Council for England. After gaining First Class Honours in Statistics at the University of Aberdeen, he worked at 2 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) research institutes, as a consultant statistician then developing mathematical models of plant growth. His work on the computational aspect of this led into broader applications of IT in education and research, and he was Director of Information Services at Royal Holloway, University of London, before moving into university leadership as Vice-Principal (Communications, Enterprise and Research). In this role he was responsible for research strategy and for developing Royal Holloway's research-led commercial and consultancy activities.

He joined HEFCE in 2008 as Director (Research, Innovation and Skills) and led the development and implementation of the first Research Excellence Framework including the new impact agenda element. He is currently responsible for research policy and funding, knowledge exchange and university/business relations. He also leads on the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund and held the Health Education brief until recently. He has advised many overseas

governments on research assessment and funding and was a member of the Finch Group on Open Access to Research Outputs.

David was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Aberdeen in 2012, was Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Newcastle, NSW in 2015 and is a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

Theresa May's refusal to commit the Tories to maintaining the pensions triple lock only further proves the Tories are abandoning older people – John McDonnell

John

McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to Theresa May failing to commit the Tories to maintaining the pensions triple lock if she wins the general election, said:

"Only four days into the Tory campaign and Theresa May has refused to commit to maintaining the pensions triple lock, just as Philip Hammond refused to commit to it on Tuesday.

"Theresa May's refusal to commit the Tories to maintaining the pensions triple lock only further proves the Tories are abandoning older people. It's now clear pensions protections are now in jeopardy.

"Labour will stand up for older people by maintaining the pensions triple lock and by keeping the winter fuel allowance and free bus passes so that the elderly can go about their lives with the dignity they deserve."

News story: A&E departments to get more funding

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[News story: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Appoints six new Trustees to the Board of the Theatres Trust](#)

Pam Bone

Pam Bone is an independent adviser specializing in planning, resource development and project delivery for the creative industries. Over the past 15 years she has secured £50-100m for arts buildings, artistic and learning programmes and individual projects. Over the last decade she has enabled the creation of significant arts spaces including the refurbishment of the Lighthouse in Poole, the Crucible in Sheffield, the Courthouse in Otley, HEART – enterprise and arts centre in Leeds, studio spaces for Mind the Gap at Lister Mills in Bradford, New Writers’ Centre in Newcastle. Clients working with Pam to ensure ongoing sustainability and growth through fundraising have included Leicester Theatre Trust (Curve), Sheffield Theatres (Crucible), Mind the Gap, Jellymould, The Art House and the Quilters’ Guild of the UK.

Paul Cartwright

Paul is a partner of the private equity firm, Rutland Partners LLP. Paul joined Rutland in 1988 and has been actively involved in its development through to becoming Managing Partner in 2005. Paul has been a lead member of the team in raising £800m of capital for investment across the three Rutland Funds since 2001. Paul has also led a wide range of turnaround and

restructuring investments for Rutland and held many board positions in portfolio companies. Prior to joining Rutland, Paul qualified as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen working in corporate finance and consultancy.

David Ian

David Ian is a theatre producer who presents shows all over the world. He started out as an actor and appeared in a number of UK theatre productions, including the musicals Time, The Pirates of Penzance, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and The Rocky Horror Show. From 2005, David was the Chairman and CEO of the global theatrical division of Live Nation having previously joined the group in 2000 when it was part of Clear Channel, the largest theatrical group in the world.

At Live Nation, David was responsible for Broadway Across America, which produces and tours first class Broadway shows in over 40 cities in the United States and Canada. He was simultaneously CEO of the UK division which included over 25 theatres both in London's West End and the majority of the regional markets in the UK. In 2006 he founded David Ian Productions, based in London's Covent Garden. It is now one of the UK's premier producers of live large-scale theatrical entertainment.

Gary Kemp

Gary Kemp grew up in Islington and attended local grammar school Dame Alice Owens and Anna Scher's Children's Theatre drama club, becoming a child actor in film and TV. In 1976 he left acting to concentrate on making music and songwriting, founding the 1980s super group Spandau Ballet. His songs spent a combined total of 500 weeks in the charts and generated over 25 million record sales worldwide.

Gary pursued an acclaimed solo career after Spandau Ballet split in 1990 and returned to acting, starring in films such as 'The Krays' and 'The Bodyguard' and performing on stage at Wyndham's, Stratford East and the Trafalgar. He writes articles on art, music and the theatre for numerous publications, including the Times, Guardian and Evening Standard, and presents and produces programmes for TV and radio.

Richard Johnston

Richard Johnston has been Chief Executive of Delfont Mackintosh Theatres since October 2004. He was also Chief Executive of Stoll Moss Theatres/Really Useful Theatres from 1992-2000. From 2000-2004 he was Chief Executive of the Racecourse Holdings Trust/Jockey Club Racecourses, which is the leading group of UK racecourses. Earlier positions included Director of the Birmingham Hippodrome and Chief Executive of the Contemporary Dance Trust.

Simon Ricketts

Simon is one of the founding partners of Town Legal LLP, a boutique planning law firm. Prior to Town, he was a partner at King & Wood Mallesons (previously SJ Berwin). Simon specialises in planning, compulsory purchase

and local government law, particularly in relation to UK major mixed-use development projects. He was ranked as the UK's most highly rated planning solicitor in 2017 for a eighth year running by Planning magazine and is rated as a Tier 1 planning solicitor in Chambers UK and Legal 500

Theatres Trust Trustees are not remunerated. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. Simon Ricketts, Paul Cartwright, Richard Johnson, David Ian, and Pam Bone have declared that they have not carried out any political activity. Gary Kemp has declared membership of the Labour Party.

[News story: Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Reappoints Three Board Members and Extends the Terms of Three Board Members of the British Film Institute \(BFI\).](#)

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP has reappointed Pete Czernin, Jonathan Ross OBE and Andrea Wong for terms of four years, ending on 25 February 2021, and has extended the terms of Tom Hooper, Matthew Justice and Lisbeth Savill by 12 months, ending on 29 May 2018.

Pete Czernin

Pete Czernin is a British Film Producer best known for In Bruges (2008), The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) and its sequel (2015), Seven Psychopaths (2012) and The Riot Club (2014), among others. He currently oversees the film and television slates at Blueprint Pictures, a London-based film and television production company that he established in 2004 with Graham Broadbent. Blueprint will release two films later this year, 3 Billboards South of Ebbing Missouri and The Mercy. They are currently shooting Guernsey.

Jonathan Ross OBE

Jonathan Ross is a mainstay of British television and radio, rarely off the airwaves either as a presenter or as a host of his own distinctive style of celebrity guest interviews. He presented over two hundred episodes of the BBC's iconic chat show Friday Night with Jonathan Ross, which won five BAFTA Awards. In 1999 Jonathan cemented his reputation as a passionate lover of cinema when he became Barry Norman's successor to the BBC One flagship film

show, a position he held until 2010. In 2011 Jonathan joined ITV to present The Jonathan Ross Show which is currently on air today. Other career highlights include hosting the BAFTAs, Comic Relief (BBC1), Channel 4's Comedy Gala in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital, and The Royal Variety Performance (BBC1).

Andrea Wong

Andrea Wong holds the dual roles of President, International Production for Sony Pictures Television (SPT) and President, International for Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE). Based in London, Wong heads Sony Pictures Television's 18 overseas production companies, creating nearly 1,300 hours of entertainment around the world each year. Among her achievements in this role, Wong brought to SPT The Crown, winner of Golden Globes for Best Drama Television Series and Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series among other accolades. As President, International for Sony Pictures Entertainment, Wong guides the company on matters impacting international production, and champions the studio's interests abroad.

Previously, Wong served as president and CEO of Lifetime Networks, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of Lifetime Television, Lifetime Movie Network, Lifetime Real Women, and Lifetime Digital, including programming, marketing, advertising sales, affiliate sales, public affairs, business and legal affairs, strategic planning, operations and research. During her time there she saw Army Wives become Lifetime's top-rated original series ever and spearheaded Lifetime's acquisition of Project Runway. Prior to that, Wong was executive vice president, alternative programming, specials and late night at ABC where she developed shows such as The Bachelor, the U.S version of Dancing With the Stars and the Emmy-award winning Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

Wong graduated MIT with a degree in electrical engineering and received an MBA from Stanford University. She serves on the boards of Liberty Media Corporation, Liberty Interactive Corporation and Hudson's Bay Company. Wong is a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute. She is also a member of the governing board of the British Film Institute, a Trustee of the Royal Academy of Arts, and serves on the Stanford Graduate School of Business Advisory Council.

Tom Hooper

Tom Hooper's The Danish Girl won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress (Alicia Vikander) and was nominated for three more Oscars including Best Actor (Eddie Redmayne). The Danish Girl was nominated for three Golden Globes, five BAFTAs and two SAG Awards (with Alicia Vikander winning Best Supporting Actress) – Tom Hooper was nominated for The Alexander Korda Award for Outstanding British Film. Hooper's Les Misérables won three Oscars and three Golden Globes including Best Picture (Musical/Comedy). Tom Hooper won the Academy Award for directing The King's Speech. The film won four Oscars including Best Picture. Hooper's television work has won ten Golden Globes and 22 Emmy awards. John Adams won the most Emmys ever awarded in one year. Hooper won the Best Director Emmy for Elizabeth I. At age 18, Hooper wrote,

directed and produced the short film Painted Faces, which was his first film to be released theatrically and was shown on Channel 4. Tom Hooper made his first film Runaway Dog when he was 13 years old, shot on a Clockwork 16mm Bolex camera, using 100 feet of film.

Matthew Justice

Matthew Justice is Managing Director of Big Talk, winner of Best Independent Production Company at the Broadcast Awards 2017. Matthew has executive produced multiple award-winning motion pictures and television series, including the films Attack the Block, Sightseers, Cuban Fury, Man Up and the TV series, Free Agents (US and UK series), Rev, Him & Her, A Young Doctor's Notebook, Crashing, Raised by Wolves, Houdini & Doyle and is currently executive producing Bliss, Back, Mum and Cold Feet. He has overseen the restructuring of Big Talk over the past ten years, including BBCWorldwide's investment in Big Talk in 2008 and the sale of Big Talk to ITV Studios in 2013. Prior to Big Talk, Matthew ran his own production label, Lunar Films, through which he produced David Mackenzie's Berlin Silver Bear-winning Hallam Foe, and Cedric Klapisch's multiple César-winning The Russian Dolls. After starting his career at The Moving Picture Company, Matthew produced Michel Gondry's award-winning commercials for Levis and Smirnoff. He also worked as Stephen Norrington's producing partner on Blade, The Last Minute and Death Machine. Matthew is a founding member of the advisory board of the Creative Business MA at the National Film and Television School.

Lisbeth Savill

Lisbeth (Libby) Savill is a partner in Latham & Watkins Entertainment, Sports and Media Practice. She is also the Deputy Chair of the BFI. In her practice, she represents major studios, independent producers, and distributors of film and television content, as well as strategic investors and financial institutions, in their commercial arrangements in the media and entertainment sectors. Ms. Savill has been recognised as a leading lawyer in the film and television industries for many years and is actively involved in issues important to the entertainment sector. For example, she served as the only lawyer on the 2011/2012 and 2013/2014 Film Policy Review commissioned by the UK government to make recommendations for the future of the film industry.

Board Members of the BFI are not remunerated. These reappointments and extensions have been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. Pete Czernin, Jonathan Ross OBE, Andrea Wong, Tom Hooper, Matthew Justice and Lisbeth Savill have declared that they have not carried out any political activity.