

# MHCLG appoints two new non-executive directors

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick has appointed two new non-executive directors to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Communities (MHCLG) Departmental Board.

They are Dame Alison Nimmo and Jeffrey Dodds.

Both will take up their new roles on 12 April 2021. The appointments will run for three years.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said:

I'm delighted to welcome Alison and Jeff to the board of MHCLG. Their breadth and depth of experience will be vital to shaping our department's important work as we help the country recover and build back better from the pandemic.

## **Dame Alison Nimmo**

Dame Alison currently serves as a non-executive director of the Berkeley Group plc & Imperial College's White City Syndicate.

She is also:

- helping to run a mutual aid programme for Leathermarket JMB, the UK's largest tenant-managed housing organisation
- helping set up a new "Greener Bermondsey" community programme
- advising the King of Bhutan on the establishment of a Royal Commission to oversee the regeneration of its capital.

Prior roles include:

- Member, then chair, of the CBI's Economic Growth Board, where she helped to steer and inform the CBI's strategy and engagement with government during a time of change and uncertainty.
- Trustee of the UK Green Building Council where she helped champion and shape the strategic direction, focus and good governance. Part of the

leadership network driving to net zero.

- Member of Imperial College's Council and chair of the advisory body White City Syndicate, where she oversaw the leadership & governance.
- Commissioner of The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 – a charity established to create an enduring legacy from the Great Exhibition, with the awarding of science research scholarships, and owner of a significant cultural estate, Albertopolis.

Other previous roles include:

## **Jeffrey Dodds**

Jeff is the Chief Operating Officer of Virgin Media, a leading UK telecoms company with 6.1 million cable customers and 3.5 million mobile customers.

He is also the executive sponsor for Virgin Media's 'Belonging' strategy – the company's focus on diversity and inclusion.

Prior to re-joining Virgin Media in 2016, Jeff worked in the Netherlands as the CEO of telecoms company Tele2, overseeing the build and launch of its 4G mobile network.

In addition, Jeff sits on the board of the disability equality organisation The Valuable 500, and previously spent eight years as a trustee and director for Dallaglio Rugby Works, a charity focused on supporting excluded young people.

Jeff has acted as a mentor for the University of Oxford's Ascent mentoring programme – supporting women in business, and the Cultural Diversity Network mentoring scheme.

Jeff has an MBA and an MSc in international marketing.

## **Further information**

### **MHCLG and the role of the Departmental Board**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is a ministerial department to create great places to work and live, and to give more power to local people to shape what happens in their area.

The Board is chaired by the Secretary of State and includes other ministers, senior officials (the Executive Team), a lead non-executive and a number of non-executive Board members. The Board's focus is on strategic leadership, performance and delivery. The non-executive directors (NEDs) also attend the 'non-ministerial board' which comprises the executive team and the NEDs and whose focus is on organisational effectiveness, people, and forward

planning.

The Board operates according to recognised principles of good corporate governance:

- Leadership – communicating a clear vision for the department
- Effectiveness – challenging and scrutinising performance, to ensure our plans are realistic and challenging
- Accountability – promoting the government’s goal of transparency through clear and fair reporting
- Sustainability – taking a long-term view about what the department is trying to achieve