Biographies

Chair

The Rt. Hon. Sir David Lidington KCB CBE

David Lidington served as MP for Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, for more than 27 years until he stepped down from the House of Commons at the 2019 General Election. In more than 20 years on the Conservative Party front bench, he served as an Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, Treasury, Environment and Agriculture, Northern Ireland and Foreign Affairs. Between 2010 and 2016 David was the United Kingdom’s longest serving Minister for European Affairs, visiting 45 European countries and representing the United Kingdom at the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe, OSCE and the UN Security Council. In Theresa May’s governments, he served successively as Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for

Trustees

Ambassador Sylvie-Agnès Bermann

Sylvie Bermann is a former French Ambassador, most recently holding posts in Russia (2017-2019) and the United Kingdom (2014-2017). She was Ambassador to China (2011-2014) and the first woman to hold the post of French Ambassador to a country which is a permanent member of the Security Council.

Since joining the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979 other key positions have included Ambassador to the Western European Union and to the European Union’s Political and Security Committee in Brussels, and Head of the French Foreign Ministry’s directorate for the UN and international organisations, human rights and Francophony.

Ambassador Bermann is also an officer of the National Order of Merit and an officer of the National Order of the Légion d’Honneur. She was elevated to the dignity of Ambassadrice de France in 2019. She is currently Chair of the board of trustees of IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale), Paris, since January 2020.

Ms Jan Hall OBE

Jan is the Founding Partner of No 4, a leadership and Board advisory business working with CEOs and Chairmen. Prior to this, she spent 22 years as one of the UK’s very top headhunters working on CEO and Chairman appointments for a wide variety of major FTSE companies, acting as a key strategic adviser through many challenging transitions.

She founded the JCA Group in 2005, which became a leading Board and Executive Search firm, based in the UK and working globally. Jan and her Partners sold the business to Heidrick & Struggles in 2016. She was their UK Chairman and Co-Leader of their European CEO and Board Practice until she left in 2018.
Before this she spent 8 years a Senior Partner at Spencer Stuart and prior to that, she was the European CEO of a UK based PLC and before that, the CEO of a successful private company, having started her career as a Brand Manager for a global business.

She has 35 years experience of being a Non-Executive Director for PLC and Not for Profit Boards and is also a qualified Executive Coach with both the Tavistock Institute and with Meyler Campbell.

She studied Biochemistry at Oxford University and was awarded an OBE in 1996 for services to business. She has also published “Dementia Essentials” (which she is currently updating), a guide for loved ones who find themselves to be carers

Ms Suzanne Raine

Suzanne Raine served in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1995-2019, including postings in Poland, Iraq (2003) and Pakistan (2006-9). She worked primarily on national security issues and specialised in counter-terrorism, holding a number of senior domestic appointments including Head of the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre from 2015-2017. She was also a senior member of the HMG’s assessment community and is particularly interested in the role of assessment in strategic decision making at a time of crisis.

Suzanne was born in Germany and educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge where she was awarded a double first in history, specialising in German history. She is now an affiliated lecturer at the Forum on Geopolitics, Cambridge University and member of the Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum.

The Lord Ricketts GCMG GCVO

Lord Ricketts spent 40 years as a British diplomat before retiring in early 2016. His last post was Ambassador to France, where he was heavily involved with UK-French defence cooperation following from the 2010 Lancaster House Treaties. He was a member of the Advisory Commission for the 2013 French Defence White Paper. Before that he was the UK’s first National Security Adviser (2010-12) and Permanent Under-Secretary at the FCO (2006-10. A particular strand to his career has been crisis management and politico-military affairs; he was involved in policy on the UK interventions in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Sir Peter was British Permanent Representative to NATO 2003-6.

Lord Ricketts is a strategic adviser to Lockheed Martin UK, a Visiting Professor at King's College London, a Non-Executive Director of Groupe Engie, and Chairman of the Normandy Memorial Trust building the British national memorial to those who fell under British command in the 1944 battle of Normandy.

Later addition:

Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB DL

Admiral Sir Philip Jones completed a 41-year career in the Royal Navy in June 2019, which culminated in his 3 year appointment as Chief of Naval Staff & First Sea Lord, the Royal Navy’s professional Head and Chairman of the Navy Board. In that role he was responsible to the Secretary of State for Defence for the fighting effectiveness, efficiency and morale of the Naval Service. He also
advised the Chief of the Defence Staff on maritime aspects of all operations. As Top-Level Budget holder for Navy Command he was responsible for the Navy’s £6.4Bn budget and its 30,000 people.

As a Vice Admiral he had served as Fleet Commander, responsible for the provision of ships, submarines, maritime aircraft and Royal Marines units as required to support mandated maritime operations. As a Rear Admiral he had served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy), where he worked to identify and drive the Navy Board’s strategic objectives.

Born in Cheshire and educated at Birkenhead School, he read Geography at Mansfield College, Oxford. Earlier in his career he saw active service in the Falklands Conflict in 1982, served in HM Yacht BRITANNIA, commanded the frigates HM Ships BEAVER and COVENTRY, the Amphibious Task Group (as a Commodore) and UK Maritime Forces (as a Rear Admiral). A Shipwright and a Younger Brother of Trinity House, he has been a member of RUSI since 1985.

He is now a Trustee of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and of the White Ensign Association, and a Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire.