

Chair of the Board

The role: The Chair is accountable to the MOD Sponsor (and ultimately to the Permanent Secretary and Ministers) for the performance and effective operation of the OPA Board. The OPA Board Chair sets the Board's agenda and has a personal role in advising the Sponsor about the high-level business issues affecting OPA.

The Chair is responsible for:

- Providing advice to the Sponsor and wider MOD on OPA's strategic direction, objectives and risks, business performance and governance arrangements;
- Leading the Board to provide support and challenge to the OPA CEO and Executive Team regarding their performance, delivery consistent with the OPA strategic direction and assurance of risk management;
- Ensuring that the Board is effective, including assessing the performance of the Board and its NEDs, and making recommendations on areas of development, typically through an annual board effectiveness review; and when considering re-appointments;
- Together with the other Board members, ensuring correct financial management, regulatory compliance, risk management and reporting requirements;
- Ensuring that the Board is supported by an effective and properly constituted Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee and Health, Safety, Environmental Quality (HSEQ) Committee; including the frequency, content and conduct of Board meetings, ensuring that systems are in place to provide members with accurate, timely and quality information to allow the Board to consider properly all matters before it;
- Ensuring OPA operates as an Arms-Length Body and in accordance with its status as a Public Corporation;
- Ensuring OPA operates as an Enabling Organisation within MOD in support of Defence Outputs;
- Ensuring that the Board actively demonstrates its commitment to Process and Personal Safety Leadership;
- Determining and agreeing the composition of the Board with the Sponsor, considering its diversity and ensuring a balance of relevant expertise and experience, and obtaining approval for the appointment of new Non-Executive Directors and appointing Associate Members of the Board (non-voting) to provide key expertise to support the Board;
- Advising on the appointment of the Chief Executive, including sitting on the selection panel;
- Ensuring the Board (and self) operates in a manner consistent with the Government Code of Good Practice for Corporate Governance and that Board members discharge their role in a manner consistent with the Cabinet Office Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies.

Person Specification:

Essential Criteria;

- Candidates must demonstrate all of the following essential criteria.
- Extensive experience of operating as a non-executive, and ability to operate as a Chair;
- Regulatory experience within private/public sector;
- Experience of current corporate governance best practice;
- An enthusiasm and a desire to support the successful delivery of OPA's challenging agenda;
- An engaging and collaborative working style with the ability to adapt to a range of stakeholders whilst demonstrating Board leadership and influencing skills;
- Sound judgment, analysis and decision-making skills; and the ability to provide a challenging and supportive role to the Chief Executive.

Desirable Criteria;

- We would be interested in candidates who also demonstrate the following desirable criteria.
- Proven expertise at senior financial, commercial and risk management level within a major hazard industry or similarly regulated organisation;
- Experience of working across the public and private sectors and/or an appreciation of the operation of Statutory Public Corporations/ALBs;
- Proven commercial experience in increasing efficiency/enhancing growth.

How to apply: Please apply directly on the Cabinet Office website, by clicking on the link below:
<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/non-executive-chair-oil-and-pipeline-agency/>