

# The Channel 4 Board

## Executive



**Alex Mahon**  
Chief Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Alex became the first female CEO of a major UK broadcaster when she joined Channel 4 in October 2017.

Alex was CEO of global producers Shine Group, where she oversaw the build-and-buy strategy of building up 27 production labels over 12 international territories and was responsible for all content strategy, including the launch of global scripted divisions and the roll-out of formats internationally, and then was CEO of Foundry, a global software provider.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
30 October 2017

**Term completion:**  
N/A

### Committee membership:

Attends Remuneration and Audit Committee meetings but is not a member

### Current external

**appointments:**  
Non-Executive Director,  
Creative Diversity Network

### Previous roles:

Executive  
CEO, Foundry  
CEO, Shine Group  
COO, Talkback Thames  
Director of Commercial & Strategy, Fremantle Media  
Non-executive  
Deputy Chairman, Foundry  
Senior Independent Director, Ocado plc  
Chair, RTS Programme Awards  
Appeal Chair, Scar Free Foundation  
Chair, Sandstead  
Non-Executive Director, Edinburgh International Television Festival



**Jonathan Allan**  
Chief Operating Officer

### Responsibilities and skills:

Prior to joining Channel 4, Jonathan worked at major London media agency OMD UK, joining in 1995 and progressing to Managing Director in January 2007. In this role, he defined the agency's future direction and broadened its offer, expanding digital capability as well as launching marketing services, data planning and creative functions.

At Channel 4, Jonathan has transformed Channel 4 Sales into an industry leader in delivering commercial innovation by working with brands and agencies to adapt and evolve in the face of unprecedented technological advances.

Throughout 2019 and until January 2020, Jonathan was the Chief Commercial Officer. In February 2020, Jonathan became the Chief Operating Officer for Channel 4.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
13 September 2011

**Term completion:**  
N/A

**Committee membership:**  
None

### Current external

**appointments:**  
Board Member, Thinkbox

### Previous roles:

Executive  
Managing Director, OMD UK  
Deputy Managing Director, OMD UK  
TV Director, OMD UK



**Ian Katz**  
Director of Programmes

### Responsibilities and skills:

Ian has overall responsibility for the creative output across Channel 4, its portfolio of channels and All 4. He leads the creative commissioning team to ensure Channel 4's unique remit to innovate, take creative risks and represent all of the UK on screen is reflected in its programmes and content.

Under his leadership the channel has earned a slew of awards for shows including *Derry Girls*, *Jade*, *For Sama*, *Breathe: the Uncivil War*, *Leaving Neverland* and *Hollyoaks*.

Ian has a background in both broadcast and newspaper journalism and digital innovation. He was editor of the BBC's flagship daily news and current affairs programme *Newsnight* from 2013 to 2017 where he oversaw the programme's award winning coverage of the Grenfell fire and Kids Company scandal.

Previously he worked in a wide range of roles at the Guardian, where as Deputy Editor and Head of News (2008-2013), he oversaw the groundbreaking WikiLeaks and phone-hacking investigations, as well as leading the Guardian's strategy to become a global leader on environment coverage. Ian was responsible for developing the Guardian's first website and played a central role in the Guardian's digital development over the subsequent 15 years.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
8 January 2018

**Term completion:**  
N/A

**Committee membership:**  
None

**Current external**

**appointments:**  
None

### Previous roles:

Executive  
Editor, *BBC Newsnight*  
Deputy Editor and Head of News, *the Guardian*

# The Channel 4 Board (continued)

## Non-Executive



**Charles Gurassa**  
Chair

### Responsibilities and skills:

Charles has 40 years' experience in management and senior Board roles in industries that have seen radical transformation, including travel, tourism, telecommunications and media.

He has also been Chairman and Non-Executive Director of significant commercial and social enterprises in many different sectors, from heritage and housing to environment and culture.

### Appointment to the Board:

28 January 2016

### Term completion:

27 January 2022

### Committee membership:

Ethics Committee

No formal membership but attends Audit and Remuneration Committee meetings

### Current external appointments:

Deputy Chairman, **EasyJet** plc

Trustee, **English Heritage**

Trustee, **Migration Museum**

Chairman, **Great Railway Journeys**

### Previous roles:

Executive

Executive Chairman, **TUI Northern Europe**

Director, **TUI AG**

Chief Executive, **Thomson Travel Group** plc

Director, **Passenger & Cargo business, British Airways**

Non-executive

Senior Independent Director, **Merlin Entertainments** plc

Chairman, **Genesis Housing Association, Virgin Mobile, LOVE!FILM, Phones4U, MACH, Tragus, Parthenon Entertainments, NetNames, Alamo/National Rent a Car**

Deputy Chairman, **The National Trust**

Non-Executive Director, **Whitbread** plc

Trustee, **Whizz-Kids**

Member, **Development Board of the University of York**



**Lord Chris Holmes MBE**  
Deputy Chair

### Responsibilities and skills:

Lord Holmes is Britain's most successful Paralympic swimmer, winning nine gold medals, including an unrivalled six at a single Games. He has a keen interest in technology and innovation and is a Member of the Select Committee on Democracy and Digital Technologies. He has previously been a Member of the Select Committee on AI and Digital Skills, author of a report on DLT for public good and Co-Chair of various Tech All Party Groups. He is a prominent campaigner on diversity and inclusion, on which he has acted as an adviser to the Civil Service.

### Appointment to the Board:

5 December 2016

### Term completion:

10 June 2021

### Committee membership:

Remuneration Committee (Chair)

### Current external appointments:

Director and sole shareholder, **CITConserv Ltd**

Director and sole shareholder, **CITDeerve Ltd**

Deputy Chair **FinTech, House of Lords**

Member of group focusing on 4th Industrial Revolution, **House of Lords**

Member of **Lords Select Committee on Democracy and Digital Technologies**

Co-Chair, **APPGs on Assistive Technology, FinTech, AI and Blockchain**

Chancellor, **BPP University**

Consultant, **Ignite Consulting Ltd**

Diversity Adviser, **Civil Service**

### Previous roles:

Executive

Lawyer, **Ashurst**

Non-executive

Non-Executive Director at the **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

Non-Executive Director, **UK Sport**

Member, **Select Committees on Digital Skills and Social Mobility, House of Lords**

Director, **Paralympic Integration at LOCOG**



**Simon Bax**  
Non-Executive (former)

### Responsibilities and skills:

Simon brings considerable experience in the media, technology and entertainment industries, first in a financial capacity, as a qualified chartered accountant and former CFO, and then as a CEO and latterly as a Chair and Non-Executive Director. Simon has worked in the UK and US, both in large corporations as well as two start-ups. This has included roles as CFO at Twentieth Century Fox and Pixar Animation, and as founder and CEO of Encompass Digital Media, a technology service provider to the broadcast industry.

### Appointment to the Board:

5 December 2016

### Term completion:

4 December 2019

### Committee membership:

Audit Committee (Chair)

### Current external appointments:

Chair, **Archant**

Non-Executive Director, **Seithe Holdings Limited**

Executive

Founder and CEO, **Encompass Digital Media, Inc**

EVP and CFO, **Pixar Animation**

CFO, **Fox Filmed Entertainment**

CFO, **Chat/Day, Inc**

Partner, **Stoy Hayward & Company**

Non-executive

Non-Executive Director of:

**British Bobleigh and Skeleton Association**

**SVG Capital plc**

**Fresh Ventures (Holdings) Ltd**

**Jamie Oliver Licensing Ltd**

**Potzart Ltd**

**CHI Holdings BV**

Chair, **WisPine**

Non-Executive Director, **Inmarsat plc**



**Althea Efunshile CBE**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Althea is committed to the delivery of Channel 4's public service remit. She has a passion for diversity and inclusion and for contributing to Channel 4's efforts to strengthen the diversity of its audiences, programming and internal organization. She has a particular interest in the challenge of maintaining and increasing a young audience share for Channel 4, in an increasingly digital age, and across a breadth of platforms.

Althea brings expertise in: the strategic leadership of large, complex organisations; senior public sector management; arts administration; working with and for children and young people; and government relations.

### Appointment to the Board:

January 2018

### Term completion:

December 2021

### Committee membership:

Audit Committee

### Current external appointments:

Chair, **Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing**

Chair, **Ballet Black**

Director level Senior Civil Servant, **Department for Education**

Executive Director for Education and Culture, **London Borough of Lewisham**

Non-executive

Chair, **National College Creative Industries**

Non-Executive Director, **Goldsmiths College (University of London)**

# The Channel 4 Board (continued)

## Non-Executive



**Paul Geddes**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Paul is the CEO of QA, a digital education and skills provider, and was previously CEO of Direct Line Group, the insurance group, and home of the Direct Line, Churchill, Privileges and Green Flag brands. Paul has built brands using the power of TV advertising throughout his 26-year career.

His marketing career began at Procter & Gamble and then retailing, before joining NatWest and RBS retail banking and then entering general management. From 2009 he took over RBS' insurance business and floated it as Direct Line Group in 2012.

Paul's experience of running mass-market, multi-site and increasingly digital consumer businesses in competitive and fast-changing markets is a valuable addition to the Channel 4 Board.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
5 December 2016

**Term completion:**  
5 December 2022

**Committee membership:**  
Audit Committee (currently Interim Chair)

**Current external appointments:**  
CEO, QA Limited

Director, QA Limited subsidiaries

**Previous roles:**  
Executive

CEO of Direct Line Insurance Group plc  
Director, Churchill Insurance Company Ltd

Director, DL Insurance Services Ltd

Director, UK Insurance Ltd

CEO, RBS Group mainland

UK retail banking

Other senior roles in multi-channel retailing and marketing at companies including Kingfisher, GUS and Procter & Gamble

Non-executive

Deputy Chairman, Association of British Insurers

Director, Direct Line Group Ltd

Director, Direct Line Insurance Ltd

Director, Indemnity Insurance Ltd

Director, The National Insurance & Guarantee Corporate Ltd

Director, Protection Life Company Ltd



**Uzma Hasan**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Uzma is a multi-award-winning film producer and industry consultant with a global track record in the development, production and exploitation of feature films. She has pivoted from international executive to start-up owner and has worked across four continents with studios and independents.

She joined the Channel 4 Board with a particular focus on embracing the challenges and opportunities brought by FAANG disruptors. She brings a deep commitment to the creative industries and the ways in which cultural output can positively shape our society. She credits Channel 4-backed *My Beautiful Laundrette* as instrumental in her decision to become a filmmaker.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
January 2018

**Term completion:**  
December 2020

**Committee membership:**  
None

**Current external appointments:**

Producer and Co-Founder, Little Mouse Productions. Her latest feature film, *First Born*, sold worldwide to Netflix; she is currently developing BAFTA-nominee Ritush Batra's next film for Amazon Studios as well as the adaptation of Gautam Malkani's cult novel *Londonistan* for the BFI

Selection Committee, British Independent Film Awards Juror, British Academy of Film and Television Arts

Non-Executive Director, *Sabber Films & Chisel Films*

Trustee, *Birds Eye View*

**Previous roles:**

Executive

Executive Producer, *Dinorom*

*Sanshat Male* and *Flying Paper*

Producer, *The Infidel* and *First Born*

Associate Producer, *Tormented*

Film Financing Consultant, *Doha Film Institute*

Head of Development, *Slingshot Studios*



**Fru Hazlitt**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Fru has spent over 25 years in the media, entertainment and technology sectors with a commercial background and extensive general management experience.

She has served as a Director of Boards – both as an Executive and as a Non-Executive Director – across a wide variety of high-profile consumer businesses.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
January 2018

**Term completion:**  
December 2020

**Committee membership:**  
Remuneration Committee (Chair)

**Current external appointments:**

Founder CEO, *La Piazza Group Italia*

Chair of the Board, *Dowse House School*

Trustee, *Merlin's Magic Wand*

**Previous roles:**  
Executive

Managing Director of Commercial, Online and Interactive, *ITV*

Managing Director, *GCap Media*

Chief Executive, *Virgin Radio*

Managing Director, *Yahoo UK*

Non-executive

Director, *Seftor*

Independent Director, *Merlin Entertainments*

Chair, *Dowse House Foundation*



**Tom Hooper**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Tom brings to the Channel 4 Board three areas of relevant responsibilities and skills. First, as an Oscar-winning film and television drama director he can help Channel 4 keep creativity and innovation central to its mission as a public service broadcaster. Tom won the best director Oscar for *The King's Speech*. His last three films have won a total of eight Oscars. His television work has received a number of industry awards and nominations – including Emmys and Golden Globes for *Elizabeth I* and *Longford*, both of which he directed for Channel 4. Furthermore, his wide experience of working in the Nations and Regions of the UK has relevance for Channel 4's plans to move parts of its operation out of London. He

directed *Ryker Grove* in Newcastle, *Cold Feet* in Manchester, *The Damned United* in Leeds, and is directing and executive producing Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* in Cardiff. Third, as a Governor of the BFI and a member of the London Coordinating Committee of the Directors' Guild of America, he has developed a strong and responsible understanding of the existential issues facing the future of the cinema and public service broadcasting today – in the age of internet streaming.

**Appointment to the Board:**  
January 2018

**Term completion:**  
December 2021

**Committee membership:**  
None

**Current external appointments:**  
Governor, *British Film Institute* (since 2011)

**Previous roles:**  
Executive

Director of *The King's Speech*, *The Danish Girl* and *Les Misérables*.

# The Channel 4 Board (continued)

## Non-Executive



**Roly Keating**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Roly brings extensive experience of public service broadcasting from his work in programme-making, editorial and senior executive roles at the BBC.

His current role at the British Library provides additional perspective from another cultural organisation within the DCMS group.

### Appointment to the Board:

5 December 2016

### Term completion:

5 December 2022

### Committee membership:

Ethics Committee

### Current external

#### appointments:

Chief Executive, **The British Library Chair, Conference of European National Librarians**

Trustee, **The British Library Trust**

Trustee, **American Trust for the British Library**

Trustee, **The Gilson Trust**

Trustee, **Friends of the National Libraries**

Trustee, **Clare Leadership Programme**

Trustee, **The Sobby Trust**

Director, **Marine Cottages Residents Ltd**

### Previous roles:

Executive

Director of Archive Content, **BBC**

Controller, **BBC Two and BBC Four**

Controller, **Arts Commissioning, BBC**

Head of Programming, **UKTV**

Non-executive

Trustee, **Turner Contemporary**

Board Member, **Barbican Centre**

Chair, **Knowledge Quarter London Ltd**



**Andrew Miller**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Andrew was recently appointed Chief Executive of **Motability Operations plc**, a role he takes up at the end of 2020.

An accountant by training and a leader in digital transformation, Andrew has also held senior executive positions at a number of multinational consumer and media groups. These include **Food Folk Holdings** – owner of the **McDonald's** licence for the Nordics Scandinavia – **Guardian Media Group** and **Autotrader**, taking the latter from a print magazine to a digital platform. Prior to this, Andrew held senior finance roles at **Frito-Lay Europe**, **Procter and Gamble** and **Bass**. He has also held Non-Executive Director roles and was Audit Chair at the **AA plc** and **Ocean Outdoor Media plc**.

### Appointment to the Board:

1 June 2020

### Term completion:

31 May 2023

### Committee membership:

Audit Committee  
(Chair from October 2020)

### Current external

#### appointments:

Chief Executive, **Motability Operations plc** (from end 2020)

### Previous roles:

Audit Chair, **AA plc**

Audit Chair, **Ocean Outdoor Media**

Director, **Guardian Media Group plc**

Director, **Auto Trader Holding Limited**

Director, **Food Folk Group Holdings AS**

Director, **Top Right Group (Ascential plc)**



**Stewart Purvis CBE**  
Non-Executive

### Responsibilities and skills:

Stewart has specialisms in TV journalism (as former CEO of **ITN**), regulation of broadcast content (as a former Ofcom Partner), and government relations (as a former advisor to **DCMS**).

### Appointment to the Board:

1 September 2013

### Term completion:

31 May 2021

### Committee membership:

Remuneration Committee

### Current external

#### appointments:

Vice-President, **Royal Television Society**

Non Executive Director, **Brentford Football Club**

### Previous roles:

Executive

Chief Executive and Editor-in-Chief, **ITN**

President, **EuroNews**, Lyon

Editor of **Channel 4 News**, **ITN**

Partner, Content and Standards, **Ofcom**

Professor of Television Journalism, **City University London**

Non-executive

Chair, **UK Government media literacy group**

Advisor to **House of Lords Select Committee on Communications on the governance of the BBC**

Independent Chair of multi-party negotiations to progress digital radio in the UK (**DCMS**)

Member, **DCMS Advisory Committee on BBC Charter**

Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media, **Oxford University**

Trustee, **SSVC** (registered charity)

Board Member, **Brentford Supporters Trust (Beez United)**