



CANDIDATE PACK FOR CHAIR OF THE BOARD

WELCOME

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in becoming our next Chair at the IFS.

The IFS's overarching aim is to promote effective economic and social policies by improving understanding of how policies affect individuals, families, businesses and the government's finances. Impact on policy at local, regional and national levels is at the heart of our mission. Our lives are profoundly affected by choices about how the government raises money, and how it spends it.

The policies that a government chooses to pursue on issues like education, health, productivity and taxation – and how it designs and delivers these – affect us all. These choices help to shape our family budgets, the quality of our public services, the consumer choices we make, the health of the economy – even our culture and values as a society. It's important for all of us that these are well informed decisions.

Over the last 50 years we have built a reputation for the rigour of our academic and policy research, for its relevance, and for the clarity, objectivity and impartiality with which we communicate it. We are politically independent and publish all of our work freely on the IFS website. We are incredibly successful at securing funding from Research Councils, Foundations, businesses, charities and government departments for specific research projects, enabling us to conduct world-class research that we publish – without fear or favour – in leading academic journals and on the IFS website.

All of our policy analysis is underpinned by this research and that's why we are often in high demand for commentary and analysis. We are mentioned in the UK media tens of thousands of times each year, give hundreds of media interviews, present evidence to Select Committees, Commissions, Ministers and Civil Servants in Westminster, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. We also give hundreds of presentations to stakeholders and partners across local and central government, third sector and business. This is something of which I am immensely proud, but it is also the type of activity that is incredibly difficult to raise funds for.

The IFS is seeking its next Chair. This appointment requires a highly accomplished individual in their field, with presence and influence at the most senior levels, and the credibility to work with a superb Board and Council. You may be an economist; but wherever you are, you will have a strong interest in public policy and demonstrate the integrity and personal standing needed to ensure the independence of the IFS from political and other vested interests.

If you believe you can offer the skills, experience and approach we are looking for, we very much look forward to hearing from you.



Lord Gus O'Donnell
IFS President



OUR ORGANISATION

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) is the UK's leading independent economics research institute.

Our job is to analyse and inform economic and social policy decisions and to help policymakers – and those who hold them accountable – understand the impact that their choices will have on individuals, households and businesses.

We are a team of economists working in collaboration with other academic institutions and experts from the public services, third sector and business.

We count a number of the world's leading economists among our researchers, and many of our experts go on to make up the next generation of policymakers, academic scholars and business leaders. Our culture of inclusivity, excellence and independence reaches beyond our staff to shape the future of economics and policy development.

The IFS is recognised as a global centre of excellence for social science research by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council. We are proud of our reputation for academic rigour, policy impact, high quality communications and absolute independence. It is this reputation – and our commitment to upholding the highest possible standards of quality, rigour and transparency – that ensure that our research, commentary and analysis is so widely used and cited.

Our academic research is at the cutting edge of data analysis, economic modelling and other modern social science methods. We apply this expertise to policy options across a range of issues – from taxes and benefits to education and health, from inequality to corporate taxation. Through flagship initiatives such as the Mirlees Review, the IFS Green Budget and the IFS Deaton Review of Inequalities, we have been guiding politicians and civil servants in implementing effective economic policies for over 50 years.

We communicate our work widely on a national and international scale, providing independent commentary and analysis to stakeholders in the UK, Europe and in low- and middle-income countries around the world. Through our work in the media and through public initiatives like the IFS Tax Lab we open up the policy debate and promote a wider understanding of economics.

OUR IMPACT METRICS REPORT

Our Impact Metrics Report provides detailed data and insight about our influence. The report is available [here](#)

READ MORE ABOUT US

To read more please visit our website at <https://ifs.org.uk/>

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN:

Deaton Review of Inequalities <https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/>

Current election coverage <https://ifs.org.uk/microsite/election-2024> and Be the Chancellor tool: <https://ifs.org.uk/election-2024/be-chancellor>

Taxlab resources and data <https://ifs.org.uk/taxlab>

Pensions Review <https://ifs.org.uk/pensions-review>

CHAIR ROLE PROFILE

ROLE CONTEXT

The Institute for Fiscal Studies is the UK's leading independent economics research institute. Our work helps policymakers – and those who hold them accountable – understand the impact that policy decisions will have on individuals, households and businesses.

The IFS is recognised as a global centre of excellence for social science research by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council. We are proud of our reputation for academic rigour, policy impact, high quality communications and absolute independence. It is this reputation – based on our commitment to upholding the highest possible standards of quality, rigour and transparency – that ensures that our research, commentary and analysis are so widely used and cited.

The Institute employs a team of economists and professional staff, working in collaboration with other academic institutions and experts from the public services, third sector and business. The IFS counts a number of the world's leading economists among our researchers, alongside those who have started their careers with us and will go on to make up the next generation of policymakers, academic scholars and commentators.

Our culture of inclusion, excellence and independence reaches beyond our staff to shape the future of economics and policy development.

The IFS is a charity, managed by the director and senior management team, overseen by the board of trustees, which normally meets five times a year. The board of trustees is a subset of, and reports to, the IFS Council, which meets once a year.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

- Chair Board meetings, ensuring effective agenda setting and management, accurate minutes and appropriate follow-up on implementation of decisions made.
- Protect the independence of the organisation and its associated reputation for independence, from political and all other vested interests at all times.
- Lead the Board in appointing, supporting and appraising the Director, taking advice from other Trustees and stakeholders.
- Chair the Nominations committee and manage the composition of the Council, the Board and its committees, being mindful of the importance of diversity on the Board and in the membership of its committees.
- Report to the Council once a year on the work of the Board; ensure that the Board makes the best use of its relationship with its Council.
- Utilise networks for the benefit and promotion of the organisation; act as an ambassador for the IFS from time to time.
- Ensure that the Board has assurance around the robustness of the IFS's finances, including its fundraising strategies and outlook.
- Ensure that the Board has confidence in the organisation's financial reporting and that proper annual business planning is in place.
- Ensure appropriate expertise is deployed to manage the investment of surplus funds to provide resilience.
- Ensure that Board governance is of a high standard and that the organisation is compliant with the law and with Charity Commission guidelines.

Candidates must not be conflicted in any way for the duration of their appointment as Chair.

You must also have no past or current involvements that would lead to your own independence in this role being questioned.

OUR NEXT CHAIR AND THEIR BACKGROUND

YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

- You have already demonstrated the integrity, judgement and personal standing to ensure the independence of the IFS from political and all other vested interests.
- Strong public policy interest, with an interest in, and experience of, the economics of UK public policy and an interest in the research of the IFS.
- A trained economist is desirable, but not essential where candidates demonstrate clear strength in other areas of the brief.
- Experienced Board Chair, ideally in a not-for-profit setting, who can ensure the IFS thrives.
- Awareness of, and commitment to, the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

YOUR SKILLS

- A highly respected and credible leader who inspires trust within and outside the IFS.
- Personally influential and works by bringing people together, often across sectors and professional communities.
- Persuasive communicator with sophisticated interpersonal skills.

YOUR STYLE

- Open and collegiate style, well-suited to working with the IFS Director, the wider IFS leadership team, and the other IFS trustees.
- Committed to continuing to bring diversity to the Board and how it functions.
- Personal presence; trusted; people seek your counsel.
- Natural diplomat with a tactful style and sound judgement.
- Available to meet the time commitment.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

REMUNERATION

This appointment is offered on a voluntary basis. All reasonable expenses incurred on IFS business will be reimbursed.

TIME COMMITMENT

The estimated time requirement in normal circumstances is about a day per month. You must have sufficient time available to carry out the following:

- Chair five Board Meetings per year – one of which is an all-day strategy meeting.
- Chair Nominations Committee meetings.
- Maintain regular contact with the Director.
- Respond immediately and effectively to sudden issues that could pose a risk to the organisation as they arise.
- Where appropriate and as required, attend additional engagements to represent the IFS.

TERM OF APPOINTMENT

An initial term of three years, renewable for a further three-year term.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Candidates must not be conflicted in any way for the duration of their appointment as Chair.

You must also have no past or current involvements that would lead to your own independence in this role being questioned.

LOCATION

The IFS is based at 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE

HOW TO APPLY

We hope you will consider becoming our next Chair at the IFS. To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/ifs-chair/> and click on the apply now button, with the following prepared:

- your CV or equivalent biographical details (no more than three sides)
- a supporting statement that sets out why you are interested in this appointment and the specific experiences you believe you can bring to IFS that make you suitable.

Please also tell us about any dates when you are not available for interview.

We would also be grateful if you would complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Closing date	Wednesday 19th June 2024
Agreement of the final shortlist	Friday 21st June 2024
Informal conversations	Once the shortlist is agreed
Update to IFS Council	Thursday 27th June 2024
Final panel interview event	w/c 1st July 2024