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AWARDS 2026

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Foreword

The CGI Awards are a chance to come together as a profession to celebrate achievement, recognise excellence and enjoy the company of colleagues, peers and friends.

This year's awards are my second as CEO, and I could not have wished for a more rewarding first year. I have had the opportunity to meet governance professionals working in a wide range of organisations, across different sectors and jurisdictions around the world.

I am constantly impressed by the professionals I meet, helping boards tackle difficult decisions, navigate uncertainty and balance competing priorities. And the calibre of finalists we celebrate this year is equally as impressive. Every shortlisted individual and team has demonstrated professionalism, commitment and impact. Each nomination showcases the very best of modern governance.

The CGI Awards are about recognising achievement, sharing success and applauding the outstanding work being undertaken across our profession.

So, to all our winners, congratulations. To our finalists and everyone who entered or submitted a nomination, thank you. And to all of you in the CGI governance community, thank you for the contribution you make every day.



Linda Ford
Chief Executive
Chartered Governance Institute

Our judges

Tesse Akpeki FCG
Director, Tesse Akpeki Associates

Hannah Ashdown FCG
Head of Group Governance, IVC Evidensia

Julian Baddley
Group Company Secretary, National Grid

Melissa Banks FCG
Senior Assistant Company Secretary, British Land

Victoria Barlow ACG
Company Secretary, Tate & Lyle

Emma Brown ACG
President, WCGA

Lyn Colloff FCG
Director, LLC Governance

Ruairi Cosgrove FCG
President, CGI

Betse Effanga FCG
Deputy Company Secretary, E Systems

Andrew Fairhurst FCG
Former Director of Company Secretarial, Legal & General Group

Alia Fazal FCG
Head of Corporate Governance, bp

Jonathan Gibson FCG
Partner, Global Entity Governance & Compliance Leader, PwC

Silvana Glibota-Vigo FCG
Group Head of Secretariat, Keller Group

Krishna Grenville-Goble
Director, KPMG UK

Mark Howorth FCG
Company Secretary and Director of Governance & Compliance, St Mungo's

Tom Llewelyn ACG
Company Secretary and Head of Governance, The Cambridge Building Society

Clare McFadyen FCG
Governance Specialist, Aegon UK

Sana Mirza-Awan
Senior Policy Advisor, Investment Association

Simon Osborne FCG
Chartered Governance Consultant

Megan Pantelides
Senior Director, Brand & Content, Board Intelligence

Kerry Porritt FCG
Former Chief Sustainability Officer and Company Secretary, Keller Group

Vyla Rollins

Kerry Round FCG
Founder, Round Governance Services Limited

Phoebe Stamford-Moroz FCG
Head of Corporate Governance, Rentokil Initial

David Styles
Formerly of the Financial Reporting Council

Jaime Tham FCG
Company Secretary, Azule Energy

Peter van Veen
Global Policy Director, ICGN

James Walker FCG
Head of Governance, Clarion Housing Group

Hannah Woodall-Pagan FCG
Group Company Secretary, Next

Ida Woodger ACG
Group Company Secretary, Intertek

Jason Wright FCG
Group Society Secretary, Nationwide

Congratulations to all our winners

AstraZeneca

J Sainsbury plc

bfl Bromford Flagship LiveWest

mitie

British Land

rightmove

DERWENT LONDON

SEVERN TRENT

HULL COLLEGE

Trustpilot

IHG HOTELS & RESORTS

indigo governance

WORKSPACE®

Winners

WINNER
Champion for Governance



Gilbert George ACG, Former Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

With more than 15 years of experience in senior NHS leadership roles, Gilbert is an excep-tional governance leader, widely recognised for investing in others, helping emerging lead-ers realise their potential and creating inclusive environments where everyone can flour-ish.

Some of his key achievements include conducting a comprehensive review and redesign of the Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust's corporate governance framework. This strengthened links between ward-to-board and board-to-ward assurance, enhanced ac-countability arrangements and improved the quality of information available to decision-makers.

His impact is felt internationally. In recognition of his contribution to developing collabora-tive health partnerships between NHS organisations and Caribbean nations, he received a Caribbean Global Award – 'Global Stewardship & Governance Award 2026'. Gilbert also au-thored NUH's Public Accountability Statement of Intent,believed to be the first initiative of its kind in the NHS, and was invited to deliver the prestigious Tutt Memorial Lecture for the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators.

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Diligent

WINNER

Diversity and Inclusion Project of the Year

HULL COLLEGE

Hull College

Silent Voices, Vivid Stories

Hull College served growing numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and multilingual learners within one of the most deprived regions in the United Kingdom. The college's executive leadership and governing body made a deliberate strategic decision to position inclusion, accessibility and social cohesion as governance priorities.

Silent Voices, Vivid Stories emerged as a governance-led institutional initiative designed to ensure that vulnerable and often marginalised learners were visible within the systems, structures and decision-making culture of the organisation. The programme now supports more than 1,000 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners annually, many of whom arrive having experienced trauma, displacement, disrupted education, poverty or significant barriers to participation

Category sponsor

Nasdaq

WINNER

ESG Project of the Year

rightmove

Rightmove plc

Rightmove delivered its first ESG Materiality Assessment and Carbon Transition Plan, em-bedding sustainability more strategically across the business despite having no dedicated sustainability team. Led by Group Company Secretary Carolyn Pollard, the project en-gaged employees, investors, suppliers, customers and regulators to identify the ESG is-sues most important to the business and its stakeholders. The assessment established Data Privacy, Data and Cyber Security, Ethics and Business Conduct, Customer Satisfac-tion and Consumer Satisfaction as Rightmove's most material ESG priorities.

Building on these findings, Rightmove developed and published its first Carbon Transition Plan, creating a clear pathway towards net zero and strengthening stakeholder confidence in its sustainability commitments. Bringing together teams from across the business, the project identified practical reduction initiatives including cloud migration, electric vehicle adoption, supplier engagement and supplier-specific carbon accounting. Published in the company's 2025 Annual Report, the plan has already contributed to improved ESG ratings and positive feedback from investors and wider stakeholders.

WINNER

Governance Professional of the Year



Catherine Sykes MBE

Vice Principal Governance & Compliance, Hull College

Catherine Sykes is one of the most influential and forward-thinking governance professionals currently working within the UK Further Education sector. Under her leadership, governance at Hull College has evolved from a reactive compliance function into a confi-dent strategic partner that actively supports institutional improvement, accountability and innovation.

She is recognised nationally as one of the leading voices in the ethical use of Artificial In-telligence within governance practice and has been appointed as a DfE National Leader of Governance. She currently serves as Chair of the Association of Colleges National Gov-ernance Professionals' Group and chairs the Yorkshire and Humber Governance Profes-sionals' Network. This year also marks national recognition of Catherine's contribution through the award of an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours List for services to Further Education.

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VISTRA

WINNER

Governance Project of the Year

AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca PLC

Global Listing Harmonisation

More than 25 years after the merger that created AstraZeneca PLC, the Company under-took a major governance transformation to harmonise its listing structure. The project delivered a harmonised global listing structure for AstraZeneca's ordinary shares across the London Stock Exchange, Nasdaq Stockholm and the New York Stock Exchange.

The scale and complexity of the project were exceptional, requiring coordination across governance, company law, securities regulation, taxation, shareholder administration, market infrastructure and transaction execution. The team navigated UK, US and Swedish legal and regulatory requirements while maintaining business continuity and shareholder confidence throughout. Shareholder approval was secured within six weeks of announcement, with the harmonised listing structure implemented just four months later.

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Service Provider of the Year

Indigo Governance

For more than 20 years, Indigo Governance has helped boards achieve better outcomes through independent governance expertise, exceptional company secretarial support and practical, commercially focused advice. This commitment is reflected in the firm's 2026 Chambers Band 2 ranking, where clients described Indigo as offering "sound knowledge and a very responsive, helpful team", "sensible and practical advice", and a relationship that feels like "an invested partnership".

Beyond commercial engagements, Indigo demonstrates a commitment to governance as a force for positive societal impact, including providing a pro bono board effectiveness review for Educaid. The firm is also playing a leading role in the ongoing evolution of new standards for professional football club governance in England and, in a UK first, has been Southend United's Good Governance Partner since 2024.

WINNER

Team of the Year

J Sainsbury plc

J Sainsbury plc

The Sainsbury's Company Secretariat team is a small, highly collaborative team whose strength lies in combining specialist expertise with a willingness to step across boundaries, support each other and focus on what the business needs most. In a year of exceptional strategic, regulatory and operational demand, the team remained calm, constructive and outcome-focused, supporting senior decision-making, protecting value, improving controls and continuing to invest in team capability and professional development.

Its work on the potential sale of Argos created lasting value for future strategic activity, while the team also led delivery of a stronger and more accessible Annual Report. Working closely with Finance, Treasury, Property, Legal, advisers, directors and senior leaders, the team helped the business move at pace while maintaining robust governance across major strategic projects.

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Computershare

WINNER

The One to Watch



Charlie de Wolf

Corporate Governance Manager, Aviva plc

Despite being early in her governance career, Charlie has already established herself as a highly trusted governance professional, making a significant contribution across some of the most strategically important activities within the Group.

Over the past 12 months, Charlie played a key role in supporting the acquisition and inte-gration of Direct Line Group, contributing to critical governance activity throughout the transaction lifecycle, including drafting market announcements, preparing governance pa-pers, supporting Day 1 readiness activities and delivering integration governance workstreams. Alongside this work, she has continued to play an important role in support-ing shareholder and AGM governance and undertook a secondment to support a subsidiary business during a period of need. Charlie is already recognised as a trusted adviser and reliable partner, with a reputation for delivering high-quality work in even the most de-manding situations.

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WINNER

Annual Report of the Year – FTSE 100

IHG HOTELS & RESORTS

InterContinental Hotels Group plc

IHG plc's annual report impressed judges with its clear articulation of the Group's strategy, growth opportunities and future challenges. The business model and revenue generation were described as simple and a "masterclass in displaying clear messaging for the reader", with particularly strong explanations of how the business drives profit.

Judges praised the report's style and presentation, noting that it was engaging, easy to navigate and effective at drawing attention to key messages. The culture reporting demonstrated how the Group's values shape the execution of its strategy, while the governance report clearly presented Board activities and oversight. The remuneration report was also highlighted for its strong design and transparency, including open disclosure of shareholder dissent on remuneration policy. Overall, judges recognised the report as a clear, well-structured and highly engaging example of corporate reporting.

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Atticus

WINNER

Annual Report of the Year – FTSE 250

Trustpilot Group plc

Trustpilot Group plc's Annual Report was praised by judges for its strong overall execution, combining engaging visual design with clear and accessible reporting. The report balances style and substance effectively, guiding readers quickly to the most important messages while maintaining a distinctive and consistent brand identity throughout. Judges noted that it was immediately recognisable as a Trustpilot publication on every page, with information presented in a logical and user-friendly way.

The quality and consistency of the disclosures were also highlighted as key strengths. Judges commended the report for delivering clear, high-quality reporting across all sections, with a well-structured narrative that supports understanding of the business, its strategy and performance. The combination of strong branding, effective communication and comprehensive disclosures made Trustpilot Group plc a standout entry in this year's competition.

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WINNER

Annual Report of the Year – Other

Bromford Flagship LiveWest

Bromford Flagship LiveWest

Bromford Flagship LiveWest's report was praised by judges for both its content and presentation. The compliance content was described as clear, easy to read and not overly complicated, while the presentation was visually impactful, making readers want to engage with the report. The use of photos and case studies further strengthened the storytelling, with even the numbers presented in a compelling and accessible way.

Judges particularly highlighted the risk reporting and noted that the report provided interesting detail on how the organisation was benefiting its communities and how the merger would benefit stakeholders. Produced within a short timeframe following the merger, the report stood out as an engaging and comprehensive submission that successfully met the judging criteria.

WINNER

Audit Disclosure of the Year

DERWENT LONDON

Derwent London plc

Derwent London's Audit Committee report impressed judges through its clear and transparent disclosure of the committee's activities, striking a balance between providing meaningful insight and avoiding information overload. The report stood out for the way it communicated the committee's work in an accessible and engaging manner.

Judges particularly praised the use of specific and detailed examples to evidence the Audit Committee's oversight and monitoring activities during the year. These disclosures provid-ed assurance that management's actions were being appropriately challenged, demon-strating a strong commitment to effective governance and stakeholder transparency.

WINNER

Board Disclosure of the Year

British Land

British Land stood out for its clear explanation of the Board's approach to governance and the framework underpinning its oversight. Judges praised the succession planning disclosures, highlighting the clear tangible output to committee restructuring and the way the report explained the evolution of the Group's approach to risk.

The report was described as digestible, engaging and well laid out, with particularly insightful decision case studies. Judges appreciated how Board activities were linked to decisions and outcomes, while the use of purpose statements as section headers for committees helped create a clear and coherent narrative. The report also demonstrated candour around declining employee engagement scores and the Group's diversity policies, adding balance and credibility to the reporting.

WINNER

Board Performance Review Disclosure of the Year

mitie

Mitie

Mitie's Board performance review impressed judges with its clear and well-laid-out report-ing, making actions and progress easy to follow. The review provided an excellent, easy-to-read summary of the evaluation approach, cycle and process, demonstrating how effective disclosure can be both comprehensive and accessible.

Judges praised the clarity of reporting against prior-year actions, noting that progress was presented with the appropriate level of detail and supported by an additional case study illustrating how recommendations had been implemented in practice. The recommenda-tions arising from the latest evaluation were clear and concise, providing readers with a strong understanding of both progress made and areas of continued focus.

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BOARD INTELLIGENCE

WINNER

Remuneration Report of the Year

Severn Trent Plc

Severn Trent impressed judges with its clear and transparent approach to executive remuneration reporting. The report provided a good explanation for large increases in base pay, including a detailed description of the international market's impact on the attraction of executive candidates and the subsequent implications for pay, which has led to a proposed change in policy.

Judges also praised the explanation of the peer group used for comparative purposes and noted that the report addressed many of the questions shareholders might be anticipated to ask. While comprehensive in its disclosures, the report remained relatively concise overall, combining strong narrative reporting with clear explanations of remuneration decisions and policy development.

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WINNER

Stakeholder Disclosure of the Year

Workspace Group plc

Workspace Group impressed judges with the quality of its stakeholder disclosures, particularly within a non-regulated industry. The report explicitly states that strategy and decision-making are driven by customer feedback, market insight and data, with stakeholders positioned as groups driving value creation rather than simply groups to be consulted. Judges noted a strong sense that stakeholder considerations are integrated into Board discussions, with an authentic tone that reflects a culture centred on customers and stake-holders.

The report provides clear and detailed definitions of each stakeholder group, alongside in-sight into how stakeholder engagement influences decision-making and long-term value creation. Judges particularly highlighted the inclusion of "significant topics raised" for each stakeholder group, the considerable level of engagement across all stakeholders, and the innovative use of a heat-map graphic to showcase material sustainability issues. The breadth and depth of engagement demonstrated throughout the report made it a standout entry in a particularly strong category.

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WINNER

Sustainability Disclosure of the Year

Severn Trent Plc

Severn Trent stood out to judges through its clear articulation of the Group's substantial investment programme, the progress achieved in its first year of delivery, and the positive environmental and customer outcomes already being realised. The report demonstrates that sustainability is deeply embedded within the organisation's strategy and decision-making processes, supported by strong and visible commitment from the Board.

Judges also praised the excellent integration of strategy, sustainability, governance and design. The report was recognised for showing how sustainability is embedded throughout the organisation and reflected consistently in both the business strategy and reporting, making it a distinctive and compelling submission in a highly competitive category.

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About CGI

The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland is the professional body for governance and the qualifying and membership body for governance professionals across all sectors. Its purpose under Royal Charter is to lead 'effective governance and efficient administration of commerce, industry and public affairs' working with regulators and policy makers to champion high standards of governance and providing qualifications, training and guidance.

As a lifelong learning partner, the Institute helps governance professionals to achieve their professional goals, providing recognition, community and the voice of its membership.

One of nine divisions of the global Chartered Governance Institute, which was established 130 years ago, The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland represents members working and studying in the UK and Ireland and in many other countries and regions including the Caribbean, parts of Africa and the Middle East.

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