



HM Government

HM Government Public Appointments



The Public Appointments Policy team asked Lynda Shillaw, Non-Executive Director of the Crown Estate, what inspired her to become a public appointee.

Motivation

After 25-30 years in business initially my key motivation for wanting to become a Non-Executive Director was twofold - to enable me to broaden and continue to develop my professional skills and to be part of the shift to diversify Boards. Being a full-time executive as well does mean that I have to be really organised, but like most things in life, if you really want to do it you can.

What becoming an appointee has given me

In my experience being on Boards has turned out to be so much more. I have found being a NED incredibly rewarding, from learning from the broad experience of my fellow NED's, to the exposure to the diversity of the businesses and people that I am on the Boards of. As I gained Board experience I also became a member of the Audit and Treasury Committees, again broadening my learning and development as a Board member.

Why should you apply?

I would really recommend applying for Non-Executive Director roles to people who want to continue to develop their careers and in particular that they look at the richness of opportunities offered through

the experience of the process itself which is straightforward and can sometimes take more time than anticipated, is a valuable one. Also, the network that you build up through the application and interview process is important to opening up other opportunities.

Advice

A final piece of advice from me to prospective Board members would be. In the early days of being on a Board, especially if it is your first Board it is natural to compare your contribution to that of more experienced Board members. Don't. Learn from the other Board members, ask for their views and advice and reflect on what you will do/say next time. However, always remember that you have been selected to be on a Board for your skills and experience and that you are there because the Board believes that you have something to offer the organisation. Be yourself.

Lynda Shillaw is a Non-Executive Director of the Crown Estate and VIVID housing association, and CEO of Harworth Group Plc. If you want to find out more about the work of the Crown Estate, you can do so [here](#).

Public Appointments. It does often take a while to secure your first appointment, but