



Chair-Ready Programme

The Criticaleye Chair-Ready Programme
inspires, empowers and develops
new and aspiring Chairs



MAXIMUM 12 PLACES AVAILABLE, STARTING MAY 2024

For more information and to apply
please contact **Justin Kennedy-Payne** at justin@criticaleye.com

Criticaleye's Chair-Ready Programme is designed for experienced non-executive directors who want to step into their first Chair role, or those who have recently taken on a Chair role for the first time.

Making the transition from NED to Chair is not simple. The responsibilities of a Chair are different to those of a CEO or NED, as are the competencies and skills needed to outperform in this role. At Criticaleye, we have consulted with our Community of seasoned Chairs to gain their insights in creating a first-in-class Chair-Ready Programme.

The **Chair-Ready Programme** takes a year to complete and is strictly limited by a qualification criteria. The Programme will cover the dynamics of chairing the boards of companies in the public markets, private equity and in the third sector. Topics covered include:

- The Role of the Chair
- Defining the Board Agenda
- Stakeholder Management
- The Chair and CEO Relationship
- First-Time Plc Chair Role & First-Time PE Chair
- Chairing through Conflicts and Crises
- Chairing an Effective Board Meeting

All those on the Chair-Ready Programme will have access to other Criticaleye events on topics including **ESG, Digital, Remuneration and Audit & Risk.**

Taking a pragmatic approach, this Programme will enable individuals to identify and address their suitability for the role of Chair, and then work through the dynamics of actually performing this role in a variety of settings. It will cover all the necessary competencies needed, as well as the soft skills that are essential to managing key stakeholders, not least the critical Chair/CEO relationship.

Due to the intimate nature of the groups and following the Criticaleye ethos of learning from those who have been there and done it, the

Chair-Ready Programme offers invaluable access to well-established Chairs who will share the benefit of their experience, war stories and all, to support the development of their successors.

At Criticaleye, we believe that great leadership leads to positive outcomes, enabling powerful legacies. Whatever the strategic direction of your business, an effective and cohesive Board where a culture of openness, challenge and collaboration is fostered by the Chair is essential.

“ Many of the issues that confront Chairs and NEDs – around strategy, succession, measurement of performance, executive motivation – are common across companies and sectors. Others will have confronted and successfully resolved problems in their Boards and **Criticaleye provides a trusted Community to share experiences and learn from one another.**”

Alastair Lyons
Chair of Glas Cymru (Welsh Water)
Harworth Group plc, and Vitality Health



May 2024 Cohort

12 Month Programme Schedule



Designed to run alongside other scheduled NED events, such as our online forums, roundtables and the Chair & NED Retreat taking place in 2025, your exclusive Chair-Ready Programme schedule will run as follows:

Date	Event
21/05/2024	Chair Ready Masterclass: Succeeding as a First-time PE Chair
04/06/2024	Chair Ready Masterclass: The Chair and CEO Relationship
03/07/2024	Chair Ready Masterclass: Chairing through Conflict and Crisis
05/09/2024	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: Creating a High-Performing Board
13/11/2024	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: Defining a Strategic Board Agenda
05/12/2024	Chair Ready Masterclass: Driving a Purposeful Business
15/01/2025	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: How to Chair an Effective Board Meeting
05/02/2025	Chair Ready Masterclass: Succeeding as a First-time PLC Chair
20/03/2025	Chair Ready Virtual Roundtable: The Chair's Role in M&A
17/04/2025	Graduation Ceremony 9am-10am

Masterclasses are exclusive events for Chair-Ready Programme participants only.

VR [Virtual Roundtable] events are open to a wider audience for the first hour, with a 30 minute debrief to follow for cohort participants only.

All events to run virtually from 8.30am-10am GMT, with the potential for some sessions to run as hybrid sessions on an ad hoc basis.

“As a Senior Independent Director on a number of Boards, there are times when I have had to step in when a Chair was absent or unavailable. I wanted to feel better equipped both from a confidence and from a skills perspective, but also to consider whether or not to apply for Chair roles myself. The **Critical Eye Chair-Ready Programme** has been invaluable, providing me with both skills and confidence while offering access to a **valuable network** of Chairs and NEDs for advice. **I highly recommend it.**”

Maria Darby-Walker
Senior Independent Director, Redwood Bank



Speakers at **Chair-Ready** events since the launch of the Programme in May 2021 have included:



David Higgins

Chair
United Utilities



Susanne Given

Chair
Made.com



Matthew Lester

Chair
Kier Group



Caroline Silver

Chair
PZ Cussons plc



Leslie Van de Walle

Chair
Euromoney Institutional
Investor



Fiona Ross

Chair
Córas Iompair Éireann
(CIÉ)



Keith Edelman

Chair
Revolution Bars Group



Philip Cox

Chair
Drax Group



Tea Colaianni

Senior Independent
Director, Watches
of Switzerland



Lynn Drummond

Chair and Pro-Chancellor
University of
Hertfordshire



Bridget Rosewell

Chair
Móttoll



Richard Segal

Chair
Peach



“What **Criticaleye** offers is a safe space for NEDs to ask questions and listen to how other boards are tackling common issues. Now more than ever, organisations need their NEDs to bring new thinking, challenge and diversity of thought, so non-executives must actively find ways to **bring the outside in to their board discussions.**”

Yetunde Hofmann

Independent Non-executive Director
Cranswick Country Foods
& Board Mentor, Criticaleye

For more information and to apply, please contact
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www.criticaleye.com

