

Appointment of

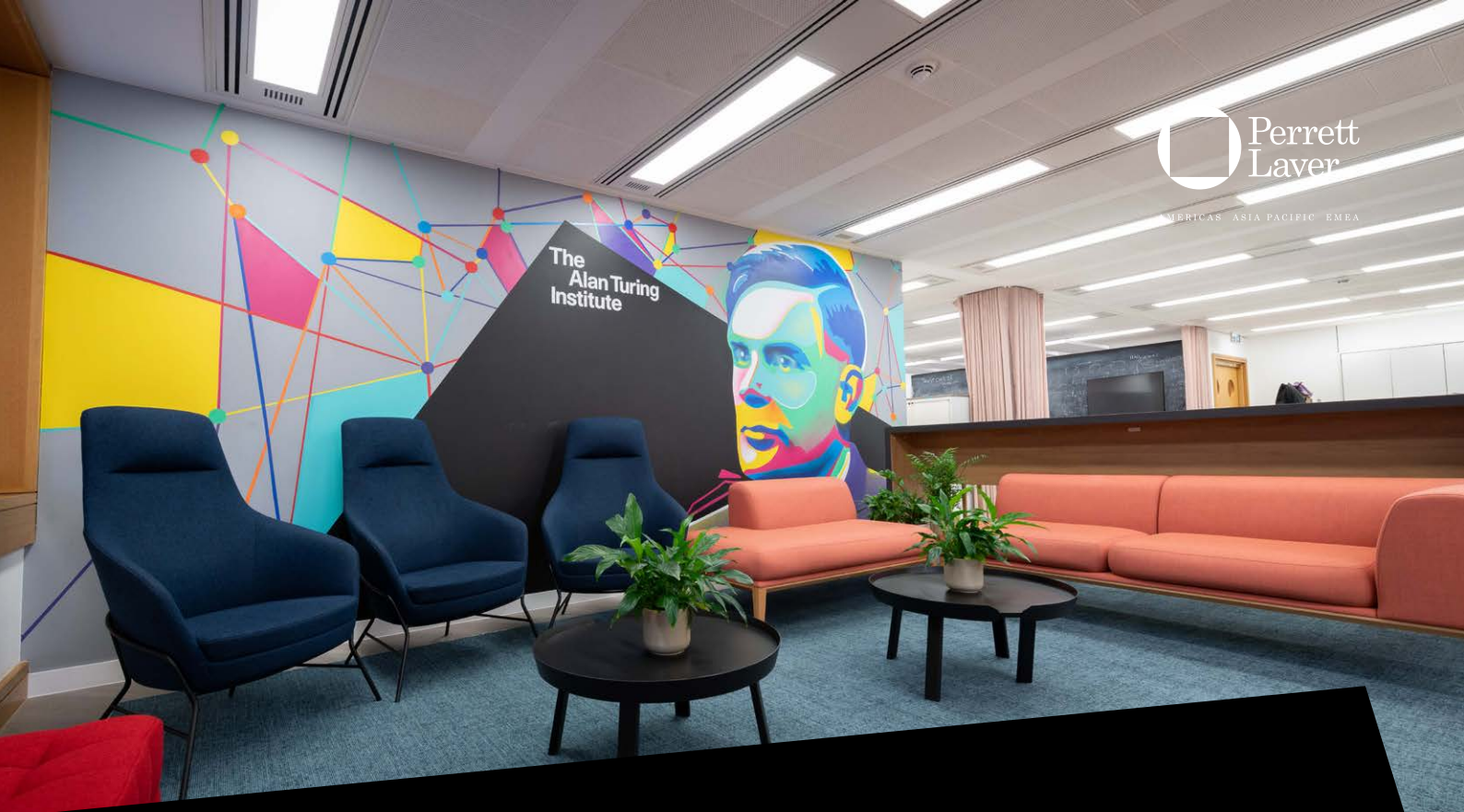
Chair of the Board of Trustees

July 2026

The
Alan Turing
Institute

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Executive Summary

The Alan Turing Institute is the UK's independent national institute for data science and artificial intelligence.

Founded in 2015 as an independent charity, and headquartered at the British Library in London, the Institute researches and develops trusted, reliable AI to strengthen UK sovereign capability and national resilience across defence, national security, environment and sustainability, and the protection of critical national infrastructure for the public benefit. It delivers frontier research alongside prototyping and engineering to advance how AI is designed, evaluated and deployed for the public benefit.

The Institute was founded by five universities – Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL and Warwick – together with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and maintains an extensive network of university partners from across the UK.

The Institute is funded through grants from EPSRC and a range of strategic partners including government departments, defence and intelligence agencies, industry, and foundations.

Over the past eighteen months the Institute has undergone a significant strategic transformation. It has moved from a broad portfolio of over 100 projects to a focused programme targeting areas of distinctive national value. New executive leadership has been established, with Chief Executive Dr George Williamson CMG joining to lead the next phase of the Institute's development. The Board now seeks to appoint a new Chair to provide governance leadership as the Institute consolidates this transformation and builds the foundations for its next period of impact for the public benefit.



The Turing Today

Our Mission

As the UK's independent national institute for AI and data science, the Alan Turing Institute moves foundational research from possible to proven, and into capabilities the nation can rely on for its greatest resilience challenges.

How We Create Impact

The Institute exists to connect scientific excellence with national need.

We bring together expertise from across academia, government, industry and the wider research ecosystem to tackle challenges of strategic importance to the UK. Through frontier research, collaboration and innovation, we help translate advances in AI and data science into capabilities that strengthen resilience, inform decision-making and create long-term public benefit.

Success is measured not only by the quality of the science we produce, but by the impact it delivers for the nation.

Why Join The Alan Turing Institute?

Few leadership roles offer the opportunity to shape both the future of a discipline and its contribution to society at a national level.

As the UK's national institute for AI and data science, the Alan Turing Institute occupies a unique position at the intersection of scientific discovery, policy, technology and public purpose. For the right individual, this is an opportunity to lead the Board of an organisation which is helping to determine how the UK harnesses AI to strengthen resilience, prosperity and long-term public benefit.



The Opportunity

The Chair of the Board of Trustees will provide collaborative leadership to the Board, ensuring effective charity governance, strategic oversight and a collaborative working relationship with the CEO during a period of organisational renewal. They will act as a senior ambassador for the Institute with government, funding bodies, defence and national security agencies, industry partners, the founding universities and the international AI research community.

The Institute currently has an interim Chair, Dr. Vanessa Lawrence CB, who was appointed by the Board on an interim basis as the former Chair, Dr Doug Gurr, who had served since 2022 stepped down to take on a permanent appointment as Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority.

The incoming Chair will play a central role in working collaboratively with the Board ensuring open communications, supporting the new CEO, building stakeholder confidence, ensuring the Institute's renewed strategic direction is developed and embedded, and maintaining the highest standards of good governance, continuing to embed the Charity Governance Code, and organisational stewardship.

This is a remunerated appointment. The Board meets up to seven times per year, including strategy away days, and the expected time commitment is approximately thirty days per annum. The appointment is for an initial three-year term with the option of renewal for a further three years. The Chair will need to hold or be willing to obtain security clearance.



What We Are Looking For

The Chair should bring the credibility, judgement and independence to lead the Board through a critical period of renewal. They will share our commitment to ensuring the UK's national institute for data science and AI operates with the highest standards of governance, delivers distinctive value to the nation, and maintains the trust of government, funders, academic partners and the public.

How You Will Make An Impact

1. Board Leadership and Governance

- Lead the Board to operate effectively, ensuring high standards of governance and decision-making.
- Set Board agendas in partnership with the CEO and Company Secretary.
- Foster constructive challenge and balanced debate.
- Oversee Board and committee performance, including regular evaluations.
- Ensure the framework is in place for tracking institutional performance against national and international benchmarks.

- Ensure the Board has the right composition, skills, and succession plans.
- Lead the Board in appropriate consideration of the risks affecting the Institute and the level of risk appetite.
- Ensure the Board maintains appropriate oversight of organisational culture, staff wellbeing and the Institute's duty of care to its employees, particularly during periods of significant change.

2. Strategic Oversight

- Guide the Board in setting and refining the Institute's strategic direction in line with its new purpose and mission.
- Ensure alignment between strategy, funding, and delivery.
- Provide oversight of major investments, partnerships, and programmes.
- Support the organisation in navigating external shifts (policy, industry, innovation landscape).

What We Are Looking For

3. CEO Support and Accountability

- Build a strong, trusted relationship with the CEO.
- Act as a sounding board, mentor, and strategic advisor.
- Ensure clear performance objectives for the CEO and their direct reports and lead the evaluation process of the CEO.
- Maintain appropriate balance between support and challenge.

4. Government and Funder Relations

- Maintain and develop the Institute's relationships with DSIT, UKRI, and other principal government funders.
- Ensure the Board understands the policy environment in which the Institute operates and the expectations of its public funders.
- Support the CEO in managing complex multi-stakeholder funding relationships, including periods of negotiation or review.
- Represent the Institute at the most senior levels of government where required.

5. Stakeholder Engagement

- Act as an ambassador for the Institute with senior stakeholders including national resilience, defence and national security agencies, government departments, industry, academia, investors.
- Support productive relationships with the Institute's founding university partners and wider academic network, ensuring the Board understands and values the contribution of academic collaboration to the Institute's mission.
- Ensure international prominence and engagement with equivalent institutions globally.
- Support the CEO in maintaining strong external relationships.
- Enhance the Institute's credibility and visibility in line with its evolving role.

6. Organisational Stewardship

- Ensure the Institute maintains strong financial oversight and effective risk management.
- Uphold the values of the organisation by example, ensuring the Institute promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion for all its stakeholders.
- Guide the organisation through change, ensuring stability while enabling transformation.

The Person

The successful candidate will ideally bring all or most of the following qualities:

- Proven experience of governance and board leadership ideally gained through chairing a Board or in a senior independent non-executive capacity.
- A demonstrable interest in the field of data science and AI, including its technical frontiers, societal implications, and ethical considerations, without needing to be a technical expert.
- Possesses a demonstrable understanding of how artificial intelligence will impact UK defence and national security and more broadly national resilience.
- Is able to make a clear commitment to delivering sustainable reform to deliver maximum value to the UK ecosystem.
- Senior leadership experience in the commercial, academic and/or charity sectors and demonstrable experience of working with government or other key stakeholders.
- Experience of visioning and strategic thinking in a complex multi-stakeholder environment.
- A willingness to engage with external stakeholders as an ambassador and advocate to advance the objectives of the Institute. This will include a demonstrable ability to build and develop effective working relationships with partner organisations across academia, commercial, public and third sectors, and working with a diverse set of stakeholders.
- Excellent interpersonal skills complementing those of the CEO.
- An entrepreneurial spirit and a flair for spotting, creating, and seizing opportunities.
- A clear commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion and setting the tone for the whole organisation.
- The standing and interpersonal skills to act as a credible ambassador nationally and internationally, with a high-level personal network and a willingness to deploy it in support of the Institute.
- Ability to create a collaborative board environment with strong working relationships and where challenge and scrutiny are welcomed.
- Experience in Company and Charity Governance with prior experience of being part of both a Company Board and a national Charity Board.



Terms of Appointment

The Board of Trustees currently meets normally up to seven times a year, which includes up to two strategy away days and five board meetings. It is expected that the time commitment for the role will be approximately thirty days per annum. The Chair of the Board of Trustees is remunerated at a fee level to be agreed which is currently being benchmarked.

The Chair will need to have security clearance. If the selected individual does not already have clearance they will need to agree to go through the process.

The appointment will be for an initial three-year term, with the option for a further three years up to a maximum of six years. This will be dependent on assessment of performance.

As this role is remunerated it will be subject to annual performance review to ensure the Turing is delivering on its duty to make the best use of the charity's resources.

Selection Process and How to Apply

Perrett Laver has been appointed to support this search. For further information and an informal, confidential conversation about the role please contact Devin Dattan on devin.dattan@perrettlaver.com. To apply, please submit an application to <https://plusportal.perrettlaver.com/> quoting reference **8506**. The deadline for applications is **09:00 am BST Monday 27th July 2026**.

Applications should consist of:

- A full curriculum vitae detailing academic and professional qualifications and experience, full employment history and relevant achievements.
- A covering letter (no more than two pages) describing briefly how you meet the criteria outlined in the person specification, why you are interested in the role, and what you believe you can bring to it.
- The names and contact information of two referees. Please note that no contact will be made without your further permission.

The appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references, and it is intended that the appointee will take up the role as soon as practicable.

Please note that an offer of appointment would be subject to successful security screening and continuous eligibility to work in the UK.

Interviews for the role are expected to take place during August or early September.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We value diversity of background, experience, and perspective, and are proud to be an inclusive employer. We warmly encourage applications from all backgrounds, particularly from groups currently under-represented in our sector. If you feel passionate about this role but don't meet every single requirement, please apply – we recognise that great candidates may bring strengths beyond the criteria listed.

We are committed to building a diverse community and would like our Board to reflect this. We therefore welcome applications from the broadest spectrum of backgrounds. Reasonable adjustments to the interview process can also be made for any candidates with a disability.

Protecting your personal data is of the utmost importance to Perrett Laver and we take this responsibility very seriously. Any information obtained by our trading divisions is held and processed in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation. The data you provide us with is securely stored on our computerised database and transferred to our clients for the purposes of presenting you as a candidate and/or considering your suitability for a role you have registered interest in.

As defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Perrett Laver is a Data Controller and a Data Processor, and our legal basis for processing your personal data is 'Legitimate Interests'. You have the right to object to us processing your data in this way. For more information about this, your rights, and our approach to Data Protection and Privacy, please visit our website <https://perrettlaver.com/privacy-policy>.



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