

UK Atomic Energy Authority, Chair

Candidate Pack

Closing date: 23 October 2023



UK Atomic Energy Authority

9 October, 2023



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Ministerial Foreword



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair for the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). This candidate pack sets out the UKAEA's purpose and details about the role.

The Government's Fusion Strategy aims to make the UK a world leader in commercialising fusion energy. The UKAEA is the main delivery partner for the Strategy and is currently at a pivotal point. The world's largest operational fusion machine, the Joint European Torus (JET) facility, is approaching its decommissioning phase. A new subsidiary limited company is being created to deliver STEP; the prototype fusion prototype power plant capable of delivering energy to the UK grid. And there is a fusion sector that needs to grow to support the drive towards fusion energy. We are looking for an exceptional leader to guide UKAEA on its mission to lead the delivery of sustainable fusion energy and maximise scientific and economic benefit for the UK.

If you believe you have the experience and qualities we are seeking, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including those from under-represented groups.

Andrew Bowie MP
Minister for Nuclear and Networks

The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)

The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is one of the world's leading fusion research laboratories. UKAEA works with partners around the globe to lead the development of sustainable fusion energy and related technologies.

To achieve this, the UKAEA aims to:

1. **Solve** challenges of sustainable fusion energy - from design through to decommissioning - with world-leading science and engineering.
2. **Enable** partners to design, deliver, and operate commercial fusion power plants.
3. **Drive** UK economic growth and a thriving industry that exports fusion technology around the world.
4. **Create** clusters that accelerate innovation in fusion and related technologies.
5. **Develop** the talented, diverse people needed to deliver fusion energy.

Further information about the UKAEA can be found [here](#).

The Role

The Chair is responsible for guiding UKAEA's mission to commercialise fusion power for the benefit of the UK economy and ensure its future as a world-leading fusion technology laboratory. This includes:

- Providing effective leadership to UKAEA's Board and direction and support to the CEO and executive team
- Ensuring that UKAEA strategies, policies and actions support the Department's wider strategic policies and that its affairs are conducted with probity
- Develop and deliver the Board's strategy, taking into account guidance provided by Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
- Promoting the efficient and effective use of UKAEA staff and other resources
- The development of UKAEA's commercial programme (campus transformation and technology transfer activities) to drive inward investment and UK supply chain development.
- Plan, manage and deliver a major strategic change programme for UKAEA as Joint European Torus (JET) reaches the end of its life and the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) programme progresses.

Diversity

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our boards and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. We particularly welcome applications from people with ethnicity, gender and disability characteristics currently underrepresented on our Boards.

Arrangements for candidates with a disability: As a Disability Confident leader, we guarantee to interview anyone with a disability whose application meets the essential criteria for the post. More details on the criteria can be found in this pack. If you wish to apply through the Disability Confident scheme, you will need to tick that option on the Diversity Monitoring form that you will submit alongside your application.

Adjustments: All candidates are entitled to request reasonable adjustments at any stage of the application process. If you would like to discuss reasonable adjustments prior to submitting your application, please contact publicappointments@beis.gov.uk

Criteria

We are seeking candidates who demonstrate the following criteria:

Essential Criteria:

- Experience of operating at senior leadership level, preferably across a science or R&D-oriented organisation.
- Ability to lead and develop a Board, building capability and supporting the Executive team in setting strategic direction and advising on objectives and priorities.
- Understanding of the management and oversight of large organisations undergoing transformation or change.
- Experience of providing strategic leadership on major projects (e.g., commercialisation, international, transformation) in government or the private sector, providing clear advice on complex issues.

Desirable Criteria:

- Knowledge of fusion R&D, transfer of expertise with adjacent sectors, and commercialisation of new technologies
- Experience of working in or with government bodies, engaging with Ministers and senior officials, and related governance

Terms of Appointment

- **Appointment Term:** An initial period of 4 years.
- **Remuneration:** £25,000 per 25 days. Remuneration and expenses are taxable.
- **Time Commitment:** 25 days per annum.
- **Location:** Mostly at Culham Science Centre, Oxfordshire. Meetings take place at the Culham Site or occasionally at sites in South Yorkshire or North Nottinghamshire. Remote attendance may be possible as appropriate. Occasional other travel as required.
- **Nature of Appointment:** This is a Ministerial Appointment by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The post holder would be an officeholder and not be an employee of the Department or the UK Atomic Energy Authority.
- **Availability:** Successful candidate/s will be encouraged to take up their appointment as soon as possible, following the successful completion of pre-appointment checks and security clearance (at SC level).

How to Apply

In order to apply you will need to [create an account](#) or [sign in](#). Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- A Statement of Suitability
- Equality information
- Information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues
- We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.
- You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.
- **Please Note:** Candidates invited to the interview stage will be offered the opportunity to speak with 1-2 existing UKAEA Board members as part of interview preparation (this will not be an assessed portion of the application).

Applications must be submitted by 14:00 on 23 October 2023 in order for your application to be considered complete. Applications received after this date will **not** be considered.

Assessment Panel, Process, and Timing

The members of the Advisory Assessment Panel are:

Panel Chair and Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Representative:

Lee McDonough (Director General, Net Zero Strategy and International)

Independent Panel Members:

Prof Sir Keith Burnett (physicist, science leader)

Chris Theobald (industry leader)

The timelines for this campaign is indicative and subject to change. Please check the advert for any updates.

Advert Closes	23 October 2023
Panel Sift	w/c 06 November 2023
Panel Interview	w/c 20 November 2023
Candidates notified of the outcome	December 2023
Appointment confirmed	January 2024

Annex A: Conflicts of Interest and Due Diligence

Public Appointments require the highest standards of propriety, involving impartiality, integrity and objectivity, in relation to stewardship of public funds and the oversight and management of all related activities. This means that any private, voluntary, charitable or political interest that might be material and relevant to the work of the body concerned should be declared.

It is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media. The Panel may explore issues with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Panel, and they may wish to explore issues with you, should you be invited to interview.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, please contact partnerships@energysecurity.gov.uk

Annex B: The Seven Principles Underpinning Public Life

In 1995 the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles for public life. All candidates for are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).

Annex C: Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have reason to complain you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the Public Appointments team (partnerships@energysecurity.gov.uk) who will make every effort to deal with these and respond to you within 48 hours.

If your complaint is not dealt with satisfactorily, you can find information about the steps you can take under the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Complaints Procedure [here](#).

The Commissioner for Public Appointments is the independent regulator of public appointments. The Commissioner's primary role is to provide independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The Commissioner also investigates complaints and may conduct an inquiry into the policies and practices followed in relation to appointments processes which he regulates. The Commissioner will not investigate complaints relating to non-selection unless it appears that the appointments process has breached the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

You can contact the Commissioner by email at publicappointments@csc.gov.uk or by post, as follows:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments
Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Further information on the role of the Commissioner or the appointments process is available at: publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk.