



Geospatial  
Commission

# Appointment brief Appointment of Chair

March 2024

Reference: QBNIA

# Welcome

Location data has the potential to underpin huge advances in our society, improving our lives and our environment. The Geospatial Commission advises Government from within the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology about how best to maximise the significant public value of location data and technology. It holds the budget for the public sector's largest investments in geospatial data and, working in partnership with others across the public sector, makes targeted interventions in data projects that accelerate innovation and maximise impact and efficiency in the use of geospatial data and applications.

In the six years since its establishment, the Commission has delivered a range of high impact policy and programme-based measures. These include piloting, build and operating model of the National Underground Asset Register; signing a £1.4bn contract with Ordnance Survey to upgrade the UK's foundational public sector data assets over ten years; publication of the UK's first comprehensive analysis of the value of the UK's geospatial data market; and mandating across the public sector the golden thread of housing data identifiers: unique property and unique street reference numbers. In addition, the Commission takes a global lead in forums such as the UN to establish excellence in data gathering, sharing and valuation.

In June 2023, the Commission published the UK Geospatial Strategy 2030 which sets out a coordinated approach to unlock economic, social, and environmental value from location data. It outlines an ambitious programme of activity across three key missions:

- Embrace enabling technologies to accelerate geospatial innovation
- Drive greater use of geospatial applications and insights across the economy
- Build confidence in the future geospatial ecosystem

The incoming Chair will be responsible for building on what has been delivered so far and advising on the next stage of delivering the strategy through to 2030.

The Chair will be required to build cross-government consensus on the priorities to deliver the Strategy, successfully harnessing the expertise of the Commission's highly experienced, independent Board. The role requires energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm to deliver changes in location data policy that support the digital and data-powered world we are in.

I look forward to working closely with the incoming Chair and welcome your interest in this crucial agenda.

**Alex Jones, Director General for Science, and Innovation.**



# About The Geospatial Commission

The Geospatial Commission is an independent, expert committee responsible for setting the UK's geospatial strategy and coordinating public sector geospatial activity. The Director of the Commission within Government also acts as a commissioner and is supported by a team of civil servants with a range of backgrounds from commercial, analytical, policy and geospatial sciences. We are part of the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology and have the mandate and budget to drive and deliver changes by working in partnership with others across Government, the wider Public Sector, and the geospatial ecosystem.

This means we:

- Provide strategic oversight of the geospatial ecosystem in the UK, setting geospatial strategy, policy, and standards.
- Hold the budget for the public sector's largest investment in geospatial data.
- Make targeted investments in data projects that accelerate innovation and adoption of geospatial data applications.

The Commission's agenda is crucial for effective delivery of many of the government's key aims; including through supporting infrastructure delivery and construction, economic growth, resilience, and helping to put the UK to maintain and leverage our global competitive advantage in geospatial capability and with that reinforcing the UK as a science superpower.

The Commission has a formal relationship with six, core 'partner bodies' (known as the Geo6). Each of these partners plays a central role in the delivery of the UK's Geospatial Strategy - both through the geospatial data they hold and their extensive expertise.

The Partner Bodies are:

- The British Geological Survey
- The Coal Authority
- HM Land Registry
- Ordnance Survey
- UK Hydrographic Office
- The Valuation Office Agency

For more details on the Geospatial Commission please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission>

# Job description

The Government is seeking an outstanding leader to Chair the Geospatial Commission.

They will be energised about bringing expertise from across the Commissioners and the wider ecosystem to maximise the public value of geospatial data. They will develop, articulate, and advise on the delivery of the UK's geospatial strategy.

<b>Role:</b>	Chair of Geospatial Commission
<b>Remuneration:</b>	£17,550 p.a. You will also be reimbursed for any travel and subsistence in line with Departmental policy.
<b>Length of tenure:</b>	Your appointment will be for a fixed period of 3 years with potential for reappointment. Your appointment will commence on 1 June 2024 and will expire automatically on 31 May 2027.
<b>Time commitment:</b>	3 days per month (36 days per year). The Board of Commissioners meets formally four times a year with a series of additional meetings with the Ge6 partner bodies, the Director General, and the Director of the Commission throughout the year. There will be other opportunities to be involved in specific work programmes throughout the year and to provide the leadership and engagement with stakeholders needed to drive the work of the Commission. By accepting this appointment, you confirm that you can allocate sufficient time to meet the expectations of the role.
<b>Location:</b>	National

## The Chair will be responsible for:

- Effective, strategic leadership of the Commission;
- Providing expert, impartial advice to the Government on geospatial data, including advice on prioritisation and maximising the economic impacts of delivery and interventions that are being made;
- Building broad cross-government and sector support and consensus around Commission recommendations;
- Driving performance of public sector bodies responsible for delivering the Geospatial Strategy;
- Chairing Commission meetings and ensuring the Commission conforms to the highest levels of propriety;
- Directing other Commissioners' input, harnessing their skills, experience and expertise;
- Engaging with stakeholders, including government, industry, academia, interest groups and the public to both learn from and to promote better use of geospatial data;
- Representing the Commission in public, including the media and at industry events.

# Person specification

## EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate will bring the following:

- Experience in geospatial enterprise or big data environments;
- A strong understanding of economic principles and their application in business contexts;
- Strategic leadership in major technology projects, with a track record of successfully overseeing and delivering complex initiatives; and
- Familiarity with working within or an understanding of government environments, demonstrating the capacity to navigate regulatory frameworks and collaborate effectively with public sector stakeholders is desirable.

## CAPABILITIES AND SKILLS

- Exceptional communication and influencing skills and the ability to work with stakeholders at all levels;
- Provide robust, independent advice under a high level of public interest and scrutiny;
- Enable a high standard of discussion and challenge, while fostering an environment in which diverse views are encouraged and considered;
- Operate strategically, with credibility and influence across government, industry, and the public;
- Process and communicate complex information, take a long-term view and weigh probabilities to reach clear conclusions; and
- Demonstrate attitudes consistent with the expectations of public office and the Nolan Principles of Public Life.



# Terms of appointment

## REMUNERATION, ALLOWANCES AND ABATEMENT

- The time commitment for the Chair is 36 days per year (3 days/month); you will receive a flat rate of £17,550 p.a. to cover this.
- Remuneration is taxable under Schedule E of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (as amended) and subject to Class I National Insurance contributions.
- Reasonable standard travel expenses will be payable.
- The post is not pensionable.

## APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF OFFICE

- The Board Chair is appointed by the Secretary of State for Science Innovation and Technology.
- Appointments are for a 3-year term with the possibility of re-appointment for a further term, at the discretion of the Secretary of State. Any re-appointment is subject to satisfactory annual appraisals of performance during the first term in the post. If re-appointed, the total time served in post will not exceed more than two terms (6 years).
- It will be important that the Chair's other commitments do not cast any doubt on their ability to act independently and impartially in discharging the role; any potential conflict of interest must be declared.

The Chair is required to adhere to:

- The Cabinet Office Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-conduct-for-board-members-of-public-bodies>
- The Seven Principles of Public Life: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

# How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the Geospatial Commission on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code **QBNIA**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter, and complete the online diversity monitoring \* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

\* The diversity monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

*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 the 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 adjustments prior to submitting your application, please contact [Jonathan.Morgan@saxbam.com](mailto:Jonathan.Morgan@saxbam.com)*

*All disabled candidates (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) who satisfy the minimum criteria for the role will be guaranteed an interview with the Assessment Panel under the Disability Confident Scheme (DCS).*

*To be eligible for consideration under the DCS, you must be considered disabled under the Equality Act 2010. This means that you must have, or have had in the last 12 months, a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This includes those whose disability has lasted, or is likely to last, for 12 months, or if the disability or condition is likely to progress or recur.*

***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.***

## **GDPR personal data notice**

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

# Saxton Bampfylde

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