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Dr Suzy Walton

Dr Suzy Walton, Chartered Director, has been involved in the IoD for many years as a Chartered Director and the Vice Chair of the Chartered Director Committee.

Suzy has a portfolio of non executive directorships on various boards and government committees. She is Deputy Chairman of the University of Westminster and the Internet Watch Foundation which regulates the internet against criminality. She is also the Deputy Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) which is the UK's only apolitical think and do tank. She also sits on the board of Combat Stress which treats war veterans with PTSD. For government she is a non-exec for HEFCE which is the regulator for the Higher Education sector and she also sits on the Ethics Group of the National DNA Database (Home Office) and the National Specialist Commissioning Group (Department of Health).

Suzy has over a decade's experience in Whitehall as a Senior Civil Servant. She has served in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence. She was awarded a PhD for her research within MoD on military suicide. Previously Suzy was a producer, presenter and editor for LBC Radio, Sky News and BBC Television and a West End Actress in the award winning play "Children of a Lesser God."

Suzy is also a widow and a mother of five children.

So how did you arrive at the IoD?

"I was always attracted to the organisation as a destination, there was a lot that I felt I could learn from the IoD, so I decided to get involved. I came to many of the events and then decided to put myself through the Chartered Director programme. The IoD almost became my second home!"

How did the Chartered Director programme fit with your role?

"When I started I was in government and I could see the value in that setting. During the course of obtaining the qualification however I started to expand the number of boards I sat on outside of government and I started to see the benefit of the 'C Dir' qualification in any setting. Once I achieved it I found that I was able to sit on boards in any sector and do the job professionally and efficiently. Crucially C Dir taught me not only exactly what my responsibilities were as a board director but what they were *not*. I learnt how to separate out the work of the functional heads of the organisation from the duties of a board director. C Dir therefore has helped me stay sane as I bring up my five children alongside ten jobs!"

What would you say to those considering the Chartered Director (C Dir) qualification?

"Know your purpose. Are you at board level? If so C Dir will help you discharge your duties. Are you thinking of branching out to attain non-exec roles alongside executive ones? C Dir will help you as a non-exec director just as much as an executive director. It is THE qualification for all board directors. Are you on – or heading for, the board of a FTSE 250 company or a PLC? C Dir will help you there also – the skills of good corporate governance are applicable to boards in each and every sector."

Do you enjoy your involvement with IoD?

"I'm involved in many areas. Not only do I sit on a board committee and enjoy the events but I use it as a venue to meet colleagues. IoD in all its many guises represents professionalism in running organisations – big

small or niche. It not only helps you learn how to govern entities better but allows you to network with others doing the same. I love it. It is the flag bearer for governance and governance is what I am passionate about."