

WHAT IS A DIRECTOR?

Directors are responsible for leading their organisation, defining its strategic direction and, along with the rest of the board, they have a duty to make informed decisions and exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence on behalf of that organisation. They owe a duty of trust, loyalty and confidentiality to their organisation and they must act in good faith in the best way to promote its long-term success. At the IoD, we recognise that practising, aspiring (including student) and retired directors, all have a crucial role to play in the director community.

The IoD believes that all directors, regardless of their specific role on the board, the sector or industry in which they operate, or the size of the organisation, need to demonstrate competence in a wide range of areas in order to be truly effective leaders.

The IoD's Director Competency Framework

The IoD's Director Competency Framework sets out these competencies, divided up into knowledge, skills and mindset. Besides the concrete skills and explicit knowledge required to carry out their duties, directors should also bring an ethical mindset, integrity and independence. When it comes to an organisation's ethical standards the directors and senior management need to be beyond reproach and 'set the tone at the top'.

