



Press Release

9 February 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned Broadcaster and Ballroom Star to Host IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards 2026

The Institute of Directors (IoD) Jersey is delighted to announce that renowned broadcaster, ballroom dancer and television personality **Anton Du Beke** will host the **IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards 2026**, taking place on **Friday 24 April 2026** at the **Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society (RJAHS)**.

Made possible by **Gold Sponsors Appleby**, the IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards are a highlight of the island's business calendar, celebrating Jersey's most inspirational, ethical and impactful leaders across the public, private and third sectors.

Anton Du Beke, one of the UK's most recognisable and well-loved television personalities, will announce the winners across **nine prestigious award categories**, recognising excellence in leadership, innovation, sustainability and governance. Best known as a long-standing professional dancer and judge on *Strictly Come Dancing*, Anton is also an accomplished author, broadcaster and host, celebrated for his warmth, humour and effortless stage presence.

Chair of IoD Jersey, **Alex Ruddy**, said:

"The IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards are a flagship event for Jersey's business community, providing an opportunity to celebrate exceptional leadership while bringing together members, nominees and guests for an unforgettable evening. Anton Du Beke's charisma, professionalism and natural rapport with audiences will make him a fantastic host, and we are thrilled to welcome him to Jersey for what promises to be a truly special night. I would also like to thank our sponsors and judges for their continued support in making these awards possible."

The theme for the 2026 Awards evening is '**Arabian Nights**', with **subtle thematic styling** and a **bespoke menu inspired by Middle Eastern flavours**, designed to complement the atmosphere and enhance the guest experience throughout the evening.

Applications for the 2026 Awards are now closed, and the judging panel is currently scoring submissions. **Applicants will be notified of outcomes during the week commencing 16 February 2026.**

Judging Panel

The 2026 Awards will be assessed by an independent panel of respected leaders from across Jersey's business and third-sector community, led by **Head Judge Eliot Lincoln**, Director at Helier Consulting, Vice President of the Jersey Chamber of Commerce and Non-Executive Director.

The full judging panel comprises:

- **Eliot Lincoln (Head Judge)** – Director, Helier Consulting; Vice President, Jersey Chamber of Commerce; Non-Executive Director



- **Helen Ruelle** – Group Company Secretary, Laing O'Rourke
- **Dean Blackburn** – Group Chief Executive Officer, ZEDRA Group
- **Alex Morel** – Chief Executive Officer, Jersey Trees for Life
- **Ed Daubenev** – Managing Director, Envestors Channel Islands and Non-Executive Director
- **Jill Britton** – Director General, Jersey Financial Services Commission

Award Categories

The nine award categories for 2026 are:

- Director of the Year – Large Business (over 100 employees)
- Director of the Year – SME Business (under 100 employees)
- Innovation Director of the Year
- Aspiring Director of the Year
- Third Sector Director of the Year
- Public Sector Director of the Year
- Director of the Year – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Director of the Year – Sustainability
- Non-Executive Director of the Year

Event Details

IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards Dinner 2026

Friday 24 April 2026

18.30 – 24.00

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society (RJAHS)

Tickets are available via Eventbrite and traditionally sell out quickly. Guests are encouraged to secure tables early. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iod-jersey-director-of-the-year-awards-2026-tickets-1738759960849?aff=oddtcreator>

ENDS

Image – Anton Du Beke

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Notes to editors

IoD Jersey was founded in 1966 and has over 840 members from all sectors of the business community, both private and public sectors.

The local branch promotes the business sector and strives through lobbying to ensure that political decisions do not stifle local business and free enterprise.



The Institute of Directors (IoD) was founded in 1903 and obtained a Royal Charter in 1906. The IoD is a non-party political organisation with approximately 35,000 members in the United Kingdom and overseas. Membership includes directors from right across the business spectrum – from media to manufacturing, professional services to the public and voluntary sectors. Members include CEOs of large corporations as well as entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.

