

## Trustee

### Welcome

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Thank you for your interest in the role of trustee at the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR). IPPR was launched in 1988, with the aim of generating and researching alternative, progressive policy ideas. Over more than three decades since, IPPR has worked to ensure that ideas that once seemed impossible have become reality. We are passionate and committed to working towards a fairer, greener, and more prosperous society through our pioneering research as the UK's leading progressive research charity.

From making the early case for the minimum wage and taking regional inequality to the top of the political agenda, to proposing a windfall tax on energy companies, our research and policy work has put forward practical solutions for the crises facing society - to enable justice, progress and change.

In 2004, IPPR North was launched to lead work on devolution and regional inequality and connect our work more deeply with people of the villages, towns and cities too often been neglected by national policymakers. A decade later came the launch of IPPR Scotland, with the aim of shaping progressive policy north of the border as increasing powers were transferred to the Scottish parliament.

We are now at an incredibly exciting time for the organisation, with the advent of a new government, new IPPR research teams - including a new IPPR International team - and are seeking trustees to help lead us into the next phase as we navigate the new and complex political landscape.

As one of our trustees, you'll be responsible for setting the overall strategic direction for our work and overseeing the effective running of the organisation, ensuring our senior management stay on track, making sure we stay true to our mission and do what we say we're going to do. But being an IPPR trustee is not just another governance role: it's an opportunity to support some of the UK's best thinkers and most effective changemakers as they make a positive and lasting difference to the country. Across our programmes and through our pioneering participative research, we combine the expertise of our researchers with the voices of those with lived experience.

We have more than one vacancy and are looking for people who can contribute one or more of the following skills and experiences.

- **Finance**, ideally for non-profit organisations
- **Fundraising**
- **Legal**

- **Political acumen**

If you're passionate about our work and have the skills and time to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you.

**Lord Victor Adebawale**  
**Chair, Institute for Public Policy**

# About us

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We're here to make a difference.

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is an independent charity working towards a fairer, greener, and more prosperous society.

We are researchers, communicators, and policy experts creating tangible progressive change, and turning bold ideas into common sense realities.

Working across the UK, IPPR, IPPR North, and IPPR Scotland, and through our pioneering participative research, we are deeply connected to the people of our nations and regions, and the issues our communities face.

We have helped shape national conversations and progressive policy change for more than 30 years. Today, our work drives social, democratic, environmental, and economic progress by securing:

- well-funded and reformed public services (health, care, housing, education) and social security that ensures everyone has access to the basics they need to flourish
- a renewed democracy which gives everyone a voice in society and passes power down to people, places, and communities, alongside a fair and compassionate immigration system which supports social integration
- a modern, green economy that delivers prosperity and justice to all people and places through actively shaping markets for social good and tackling concentrations of wealth and power.

At this incredibly exciting time for the organisation, we are seeking trustees to help lead us through the next phase of our development as we navigate a complex political landscape to help shape public debate and create effective change.

## LANDMARK RESEARCH

Our landmark reports have included the Commission on Economic Justice, a two-year inquiry to examine the challenges faced by the economy, which brought together leading figures from business, trade unions and civil society, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the City of London Corporation and the general secretary of the TUC. It's [2018 final report](#) won broad support for its bold proposals to fundamentally reform the UK economy, and is still shaping debate today.

IPPR's cross-party Environmental Justice Commission was established to respond to the climate crisis and put forward a Green New Deal plan for the UK to move to net zero. Its [influential report](#), designed to secure public support for the transition because it put fairness at its heart, was published in 2021. A further IPPR [Commission on Health and Prosperity](#) has recently concluded and was lauded by Wes Streeting, the secretary of state for health and social care.

Throughout IPPR's history, the Institute has meanwhile incubated and launched a series of practical initiatives to test and demonstrate our ideas in practice, including [Frontline](#), [Think Ahead](#), and [The Difference](#). We also incubated [Centre for Cities](#) which became independent in 2007 and more recently, [Workwhile](#), which became independent in April this year.

Across the decades, generations of IPPR leaders, researchers and communicators have helped to transform the climate of ideas and propose practical policies to put them into effect, work which continues today. Our alumni community have gone on to work at the highest levels of the media, government, parliament, business and civil society organisations.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

IPPR is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, and from applicants with a range of professional and lived experiences. As an organisation engaging in critical debate about a wide range of progressive policy issues, we value the creativity and range of perspectives that a diverse team can provide.

## **Your role**

As a trustee of IPPR, you'll have responsibility (alongside other trustees) for governance and oversight of our organisation, including strategic decisions and the management of our finances and risk.

In everyday language: trustees keep our Executive Director and senior management team on track, making sure we do what we've said we will do and stay true to our mission. You will focus on the key issues, opportunities and risks facing the charity, and provide strategic direction to our Executive Director and team. You will ensure that we set goals, evaluate our performance and safeguard the reputation and values of the organisation.

They are both trustees of the charity and directors of the company and meet quarterly to discharge these duties, with meetings taking place both in person and online.

### **Joining our Trustee Board**

To get the most out of being an IPPR trustee, you will need to have a passion for our vision and goals and ensure you can commit to the time and effort required. Our trustees need strategic vision, independent judgement and an ability to work effectively as part of a team.

You'll help to make IPPR a successful, sustainable and impactful organisation by:

- Ensuring that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensuring that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document and provides public benefit.
- Ensuring that the organisation uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects.
- Contributing actively to the board of trustees' role in giving strategic direction to the organisation, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed objectives and targets.
- Safeguarding the values and reputation of the organisation.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration and running of the organisation.
- Ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of the organisation.
- Protecting and managing the assets of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds.
- Supporting IPPR's Executive Director in the role.
- With fellow trustees, setting the remuneration of the Executive Director and senior members of staff.
- Preparing for and contributing to quarterly board meetings.
- Providing guidance and direction on strategic areas of expertise.

- Convening and being part of subcommittee groups relevant to your expertise.

### **How much time is involved**

This is a volunteer role so there is no salary. We pay reasonable out of pocket expenses, including travel to meetings and support with childcare costs. The initial term is three years, with the opportunity to do another three-year term.

There are four trustee board meetings per year, which are normally held in London (or remotely). Trustees may also be asked to join occasional sub-committees or meetings with the team, e.g. to support with areas of your expertise. Each board meeting also has prior reading. Time commitment varies by trustee, but we estimate a minimum time commitment of 24 hours per year.

### **About you**

We welcome first-time trustee applicants. We are particularly keen to hear from people with links to Scotland, expertise and experience in fundraising, finance, legal, movement-building, politics, or the management and growth of medium-sized organisations.

You might have experience of local or central government, of community work or civil society, in the corporate sector or with a funder. Maybe you've started something or managed something or maybe you are moving into leadership for the first time. If you have skills, time and commitment to offer we'd love to hear from you.

Equity is central to our mission and values: we work to recognise and address disparities based on socioeconomics, gender, sex, age, sexual orientation, faith, race, ethnicity and disability. We particularly welcome applications from people of colour, from working class backgrounds, with disabilities, under the age of 35 and/or who are based outside of the South-East of England, to enrich the diversity (and therefore effectiveness) of our board.

While IPPR is extensively engaged with political debate, we are firmly independent and non-partisan, advocating progressive policy change across - and beyond - political parties.

## How to apply

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We hope you will consider making an application. To put yourself forward for this role, please send, in no more than three pages, a statement outlining your suitability for the role, including your:

- Relevant experience, including past achievements that demonstrate an ability to think strategically about how change happens.
- Expertise in fundraising, finance, legal, movement-building, politics or the management and/or growth of medium sized organisations, if you do have one of these forms of expertise.
- Understanding of politics and public policy as a route to change.
- Willingness to challenge prevailing views constructively as part of collective leadership and oversight, ensuring teams make brave decisions with integrity and wisdom.
- Understanding of the changing - and potential - role of a progressive think tank.
- Lived experience or acquired understanding of social, democratic, environmental and economic injustice,
- Understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.

**Please remember to include your name and contact details.**

Please note that there are certain cases in which someone might be disqualified from being a trustee, such as if they hold an unspent conviction for certain offences or are an undischarged bankrupt. We will ask you whether any of these apply to you prior to appointment. You can read more [here](#).

We would also be grateful if you complete the [equality and diversity monitoring form](#). This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Please send your completed application to [applications@ippr.org](mailto:applications@ippr.org) quoting **ref. TR/MAY**

**Closing date for applications:** Midday on Monday 2 June

**Interviews** will take place in our London office on Thursday 10 July

Please contact us at [recruitment@ippr.org](mailto:recruitment@ippr.org) if you need any help or adjustments to apply for this role or the application materials to be sent to you in a different format.

We wish you every success with your application and thank you for your interest in IPPR.