



Deborah Harris-Ugbomah BEng FCA

Business Appointment: Non-Executive Director and Consultant, The ConfidenceVault Ltd

Personal introduction

I qualified with PwC (then known as Price Waterhouse) and spent the next decade of my career in financial services, finding my niche supporting business angels eager to fund great startups/ early stage businesses. I spent a few years gaining experience with the then largest business angel network in the UK, a technology incubator, property development before creating a management consultancy. I also took time to support family caring duties and so had opportunity to support my passions of mentoring female students and graduates often first in their family to go to university who hoped to enter a profession. I also set up or managed a number of community programmes that advocated better health & wellness choices, socio-economic advancement through community finance solutions and financial literacy. My consultancy is in risk management and executive leadership. Clients include corporates (technology providers) and career women in middle management seeking to move into C-suite or board level executive roles. In addition to my consultancy I have non-executive director appointments. I am relatively active on social media and welcome opportunities to engage with members online and, once safe to do so, in person.

LI: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/deboharris>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/harrisdhuleanin>

Twitter: [LadyOnBoard FCA](#)

Insta: [@deboharris](#)

Your involvement with ICAEW

Over the past few years I have been an active ICAEW member, serving for a decade on our Non-Executive Director Special Interest group (NEDSIG) from 2008. I was elected to chair that special interest group (SIG) and also chaired the committee of Special Interest Group Chairs. This gave me the opportunity to represent all the SIGs to the Members' Board until the restructure of services transitioned the SIG legacy into the current ICAEW Academy.

I also served as a main committee member for The London Society of Chartered Accountants (LSCA), and most recently was elected to be a member of the Executive Committee. I became a Vice President in summer 2020. As part of this role, I have attended and contributed at our main committee meetings of LSCA, and have served as a

school mentor and judge for BASE (ICAEW's National Business and Accounting competition for students in school or college aged 16-17) since 2015.

I have regularly presented or been a panel member for ICAEW events on corporate governance, board leadership and non-executive director skills, and the value of cognitive and identity diversity for innovation and competitive advantage.

I am the Diversity Champion for LSCA and, in light of 2020 events that led to the global anti-racism outcry, I presented at CAEW Board to strengthen our support of the pipeline and talentpool of black members.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council

One of my key drivers is the desire to continue to be of service in the communities I live or work alongside. I've been doing this since I started my working life. It is a genuine part of who I am, so it has been natural for me to do the same within my professional community. I have personal experience of the value a young person can have from good health, education and stable housing. All of these deepen a sense of belonging. But without solid financial wellbeing these are all at risk. I care about the position we hold in society; one of trust to shape and guide decisions.

People place expectations in our important profession.

I believe we are uniquely placed to not just secure the best future for business and the next generation but also to safeguard systems to deliver a dignified later life for mature industries and our ageing population. In light of this I believe that serving on Council is a natural extension of my current and continued activities at a local level. I also believe that I offer a uniquely different perspective to enhance the contributions Council deliver for the ICAEW members. I have an unwavering focus on delivering good corporate governance. So I would be keen to support the scrutiny of ICAEW meeting its Charter objectives, including the provision of quality education and training, the maintenance of professional standards and the delivery of technical excellence that is in the public interest. I look forward to being a relatable role model of students and graduates who often don't see themselves reflected in the profession.

As an ambassador for ICAEW, I would represent the views of all London-based ICAEW members, and would continue my active participation in discussions at the strategic level of the scrutiny and accountability of operational plans & budgets.

In addition to my active membership activities, I have a portfolio of board level non-executive director roles that match my personal values. This includes board membership and Risk & Audit Committee Chairmanships within healthcare, secondary and tertiary education, housing and financial services. I mentor ambitious, younger members and in 2016 founded Lean In UK, a 3,800 strong membership of women and male allies from 80+ locations across the UK who meet regularly in learning sets that support and encourage the motivation and progress of women - in work, or as business owners.

As an independent consultant and board committee chair, I have developed the flexibility to ensure I deliver as an effective member of these boards, and will continue that approach as a member of Council to ensure I can attend and participate in all relevant meetings.

Strategic focus

This year has shaped work and industry in ways we could not have begun to imagine. From global protests on society's most intractable issues, a global step forward in the use and engagement with technology and focus on environmental sustainability, we are not the same. However, from my own experience and listening to fellow members I see the main issues facing the profession continue to be trust in the profession, and a continued move towards our role as proactive and supportive advisors, and not passive technicians. The ICAEW is holding itself more to account, with all members needing even more than ever to step up to our role and influence its response to issues and concerns faced by our pipeline of talent in future generations, cognitive diversity within the profession and keeping up with the competing industry needs for stability and innovation. My experience to date convinces me that continuing to refresh the perspectives of the voices in Council will benefit the profession.

I have spent over a decade as an active ICAEW member. To continue this service as a member of Council, it is my intention to represent the wide perspectives of our London-based membership. We have an even greater duty to steer to future of business and accountancy, and I am excited by the prospect of continuing to reflect the members views in this way. Too often we hear the need to do actions for future generations. However, *their* future is dependent on what we build, on what we do and build today. . My focus and aim will be to keep a focus on the needs of our upcoming leaders in the profession without abdicating the duty of building a stronger profession today.

Communication with members in your constituency

I meet (latterly online) and share views with a wide range of members through my active membership of LSCA Main Committee, Executive Committee and as a regular attendee at LSCA events, and continue to build on this as an LSCA Vice President.

As a Council member, I will ensure that I am known to be a credible and reliable representative, able to take the concerns of my fellow London members to Council, if it is appropriate to do so. With my years of active ICAEW volunteering, I have gained some understanding of the paths to information and will also be able to signpost members to the relevant office or individual, if that better fits the issue under discussion. I hold data protection and confidentiality to a high standard and will ensure my communication with members is compliant with all requirements under GDPR.

Nominators

Victoria Andrew
Angus Farr
Helen Brennan
Nicholas Brennan
Sanjive Sethi

Declaration of interests which are relevant to the business of ICAEW

Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies ⁱ :	<p>Founder & Regional Leader – Lean In UK</p> <p>Member - FinTech Female Founders Working Group</p> <p>Committee member – Women In the UK Workplace</p>
Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:	<p>Vice President, Executive Committee - London Society of Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Member, Main Committee – London Society of Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Member – District Society Working Party (2019 -</p>
Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:	<p>Trustee and Chair of Risk, Audit & Compliance Committee – The Children’s Society (charity)</p> <p>Governor and Chair of Audit Committee – Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance</p> <p>Governor and Chair of Audit & Finance Committee – The Shared Learning Trust (Multi Academy Trust)</p> <p>Independent Audit Committee member – Southern Housing Group</p> <p>Director, The ConfidenceVault Ltd</p> <p>Director, HMP Ltd</p>
Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with the ICAEW:	None
Any other matters you feel should be identified:	None

ⁱ This includes employment by a professional body.