

Dame Fiona Kendrick DBE

Chairman, Nestlé UK and Ireland



Fiona Kendrick became Chairman of Nestlé UK and Ireland on 1 July 2017, having previously served as Chairman and CEO from 2012.

Having started her career initially in teaching, Fiona joined Nestlé UK in 1980 in a commercial role, and spent her working life with Nestlé in key strategic roles in the UK market as well as at global level.

Prior to heading up the UK and Ireland business, with a £2.4 billion turnover, employing 8,000 people across 20 sites, Fiona was responsible for the global strategic direction of Nestlé's coffee brands, based in Nestlé headquarters in Switzerland. The role reported into the main Nestlé Executive Board.

Fiona has a personal passion for the youth employment and skills agenda, and has led a number of lighthouse projects in this area both inside and outside Nestlé.

She has helped to transform Nestlé UK and Ireland's recruitment practices through the Nestlé Academy. The Academy brings together graduate and apprenticeship programmes, direct entry schemes and vocational training in order to deliver more flexible entry points and alternative routes to higher education for people.

Fiona was a UK Commissioner for Employment and Skills and played a lead role in supporting the development and delivery of strategies for skills and employment across the four UK nations.

From January 2015 to December 2016 Fiona was President of the Food and Drink Federation, the association that represents the UK food and drink manufacturing industry. She previously led the F&D sector's skills and competitiveness agenda and co-chaired the UK Food and Drink Export Forum.

In the 2015 New Year's Honors' list Fiona was created Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to the food industry and support for skills and opportunities for young people.

In recognition of services to the food and drink industry and young people's employment and skills, Fiona was awarded an honorary degree by Sheffield Hallam University in 2015 followed by a further honorary degree from York University in 2017.

In January 2017 Fiona was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Institute for Apprenticeships Board and in January 2018, appointed to Chair the new University of Hereford for Engineers.

Fiona has been awarded the Chartered Management Institute Gold Medal for Leadership 2017.