

Board competency framework

This statement

This statement was revised by the Board of Benefacts at its meeting on 15th December 2016 and its implementation in practice is periodically reviewed by the Board.

Directors

Benefacts is a specialised niche provider of data, information and IT services to Irish nonprofits and their stakeholders, working with partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors including philanthropies. It is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee without share capital and its directors serve in a voluntary (unpaid) capacity.

Members of the company's Board of directors share a conviction about the value of information in transforming the work of Irish public benefit nonprofits. They will be expected to comply with the standards provided in the company's Code of Ethical and Business Conduct for Directors, including its policy concerning conflicts of interest or loyalty.

The role and responsibilities of Benefacts directors and the Benefacts Chair are described in a separate document. Directors are expected to participate in Board meetings - about 8 per annum, or more as required – and to share in the leadership and effective governance of the organisation, including service on its committees and working groups.

Directors normally are expected to serve for a term of three years, and for no more than three consecutive three-year terms.

Insofar as possible, the Board will be diverse in terms of the gender of Directors and the range of their practical and professional experience of nonprofits. Aside from these, this is a statement of the combination of aptitudes and skills that the Board of Benefacts requires to discharge its functions fully and effectively.

Experience and skills

The Board will have an adequate mix of non-executive Directors with relevant and recent experience in one or more of the following:

1. Civil society leadership, management and governance
2. Information and communications technologies with particular reference to data and information services
3. Philanthropy
4. Financial management, audit and accountancy
5. Public policy and administration
6. Marketing, communications and branding
7. Legal and regulatory expertise including for example in contract law, IP, data protection and related areas

Induction, governance training, board evaluation

Board induction training including briefings on the company's IT and data handling operating environment will be provided on appointment to every member of the Board and will be supplemented by regular ongoing support as required.

In addition, to ensure that every Director is fully aware of his/her responsibilities in law, specific training in performing the functions of a Company Director under the Companies Act 2014 will be offered as a matter of course to every Director who has not previously received such training.

The Board will periodically evaluate its own performance. A schedule of the questions to be covered in the Board self-evaluation process forms part of the Board Governance Manual.