



Supporting boards excel in effectiveness, governance and performance

Board Excellence are delighted to announce their merger with Acorn Governance as part of their continued expansion

As private and public sector boards globally are dealing with unprecedented governance challenges and opportunities, accelerated in part by the pandemic and Brexit, Board Excellence today announces the merger with Acorn Governance Solutions, whose founders, Ros O'Shea and Dr Jonathan Westrup, are joining the Board Excellence partner team, in the latest exciting development for this fast growing Irish-based international board consulting practice.

Founded in 2016, Board Excellence supports a wide range of client boards across all sectors, including PLCs, private companies, SMEs, family-owned businesses, public-sector and not-for-profit organisations in key areas such as external board evaluations, bespoke director training, independent board dispute mediation, strategic planning, reputational risk management, ESG engagement, board composition and succession planning, as well as a search service for Board Chairs and Non-Executive Directors.

Commenting on the merger, Kieran Moynihan, Managing Partner of Board Excellence, said, *"The combination of our unique approach to board effectiveness and a move towards a more virtual boardroom has accelerated our global expansion and we have found that there is a strong growing demand for our offering. Directors of progressive boards are dealing with so many new agenda items including the Environment Social and Governance (ESG) movement, accelerated customer-led digital transformation, employee engagement and diversity and cultural oversight, to name just a few. With Ros and Jonathan joining our partner team, we can build on Board Excellence's proven track record and momentum in supporting board teams to set the bar high in such critical governance matters, driving sustained improvement in their board effectiveness and excelling for all their stakeholders and shareholders."*

Ros O'Shea, Partner of Board Excellence and former founding Partner at Acorn Governance Solutions added,

"There are so many synergies with the merger, in particular, the fact that we are all experienced board chairs and directors means we have a first-hand understanding of our clients' governance issues and challenges. This underpins a collegiate approach to developing pragmatic, highly-effective solutions."

Board Excellence is the first board consulting practice in Ireland to expand internationally. In 2020, the firm experienced exceptional growth in the UK (over 250%), despite the challenges of Covid-19 and Brexit. In addition to its extensive board client portfolio in Ireland, Board Excellence now supports UK companies that are listed on FTSE and AIM Stock Exchange, global membership bodies, non-profit and UK public sector organisations. Board Excellence also supports the leading European Development Finance Institutions who invest in companies in developing economies around the world.

The merger of these two established firms creates a leading board practice, helping board teams at home and internationally address their significant challenges, headwinds and opportunities, now and in the future.

For more information on Board Excellence please visit www.boardexcellence.ie and www.boardexcellence.co.uk

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Notes to Editor



Kieran Moynihan, Managing Partner

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As the founder of Board Excellence, Kieran developed the Board Excellence board performance, evaluation and training programmes based on proprietary research and leading international best practices. He is a recognised international thought leader in the area of board dynamics, effectiveness, performance, corporate governance and ESG and a regular contributor to pre-eminent board publications and a frequent speaker at international board and governance events.



Ros O'Shea, Partner

(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rososhea/>)

Ros has a portfolio of board positions, including BlackRock's funds in Ireland, the Bank of Montreal Europe plc, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and Pieta House. Previously Ros enjoyed a highly successful executive career with FTSE100 companies, CRH plc and Smurfit Kappa Group plc. She is an associate faculty member with the UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business and is author of "Leading with Integrity – a Practical Guide to Business Ethics".



Dr. Jonathan Westrup, Partner

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Jonathan is an experienced Board Chair and Non-Executive Director. He is the chair of Cancer Trials Ireland, a member on the board of NEAM Ltd (a subsidiary of GenRe) and was formerly on the board of BNY Mellon Global Clearing Services. He is a senior teaching fellow at Warwick Business School where he directs the Diploma in Strategy and Innovation and also lectures at the Irish Management Institute, Trinity Business School and at the Institute of Bankers.