

Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB, HonFREng, FRICS, FRGS, FRSGS, FCInstCES, CCMI, CGeog



Dr Vanessa Lawrence is working internationally as a senior advisor to governments, inter-governmental organizations including the World Bank and large private sector organizations.

She is a Director of Location International Ltd which provides strategic advice and full operational capacity globally, to the public and private sector, as to how to gain from improving their own use of location information to enhance their decision-making, undergo organizational transformation and to meet the ever-changing needs of their customers and stakeholders.

In addition, Vanessa is a Non-Executive Director of the Satellite Applications Catapult and a Non-Executive Director and Trustee of the Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI, on the Advisory Boards of Seraphim Space LLP, the Space venture capital fund backed by the British Business Bank, the Spatial Finance Initiative and the Urban Big Data Centre. She is the Honorary Colonel of 135 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers and also a Trustee of the Royal Geographical Society, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southampton and Visiting Professor at Kingston University.

From 2000-2014, she was a senior member of the British Civil Service as the Director General and CEO Ordnance Survey, Britain's National Mapping Authority and the advisor to the British Government for issues involving mapping, surveying and geographic information. She is the longest serving Director General and CEO of Ordnance Survey since 1875.

From 2011-2015, she was a founding co-chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

Prior to joining Ordnance Survey, she held senior roles with the billion-dollar American software company, Autodesk and also the global media and publishing company, Pearson plc.