

## **UKSIF welcomes Michael Meehan as new Chair**

**London, 1 October 2019** – The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) is delighted to welcome Michael Meehan as its new Chair. Michael has been a Chief Executive and board member in sustainability for almost 20 years and has worked with organisations and governments around the world including the World Economic Forum, California State Senate, the White House, and the United Nations. Michael sits on the boards of several impact organisations including the London-based Natural Capital Coalition and TCR Innovations, and is the former CEO of the Global Reporting Initiative.

Michael will replace Lesley Alexander who is stepping down as UKSIF Chair after five years.

Michael Meehan said: “I look forward to working with UKSIF and its leadership to help strengthen the critical role the organisation plays in sustainable and responsible investment in the UK and around the world. Coming from a background in sustainability and impact finance, I see the international community prioritizing critical sustainable risks more than ever before. Over \$90 trillion will be required by 2030 to achieve globally accepted goals in sustainable development and climate challenges, and I believe the UK’s financial community has a critical and leading role to play in this rapidly changing investment landscape. I’d like to thank Lesley for her leadership as Chair and I am excited to help UKSIF guide its members in navigating these new opportunities and challenges in the years to come.”

Simon Howard, Chief Executive of UKSIF said:

“The team is delighted to welcome Michael Meehan as our new Chair. Michael’s international experience maps well onto the changing nature of UK sustainable finance: driven by the needs of our UK members but intimately linked to global developments. This is an exciting time for members with the commitment to net zero and the launch of the Green Finance Strategy, we approach it with confidence.”

Lesley Alexander, departing Chair said:

“I thoroughly appreciate the hard work of the members, my fellow directors, and the team who have made my five years as Chair of UKSIF so enjoyable and successful. We worked together for a good deal of change in that period, both within UKSIF and outside. With my background in pensions I’m especially delighted that we achieved so much in the field of fiduciary duty. We played a key role in modernising regulations so that now Trustees have to be very clear in their Statement of Investment Principles about the factors they take into account when considering ESG issues and the impact of climate change. I’ve also been impressed with how much Good Money Week has grown to flag the contribution and relevance of UKSIF members to mainstream audiences. I wish Michael and UKSIF continued success.”

### **Contact**

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*Interviews with Michael Meehan or Simon Howard are available on request.*

### **Notes to Editor**

**Michael Meehan**

Michael has been involved in sustainability and impact finance for almost 20 years, beginning his career in Silicon Valley in climate finance technology and holding several chief executive roles in the US, EU, and the UK. As the former CEO of the Global Reporting Initiative and Carbonetworks, Michael has a long history of leadership in both corporates and nonprofits, and sits on the boards of several UK organizations including the Natural Capital Coalition, TCR Innovations, FullSight Partners, and others focused on responsible investment. Over the years Michael has worked extensively with the United Nations, the White House, and the World Economic Forum on sustainability issues, and currently works with funds and governments throughout the world on taking a systemic approach sustainable finance.

**Simon Howard**

Simon Howard joined UKSIF as Chief Executive in May 2013. Simon is a former Group Chief Investment Officer who has over twenty years of investment management experience. During a City career that started in 1990, he has been Group Chief Investment Officer at Liverpool Victoria, Head of Investments at Friends Provident and Managing Director at 3i Asset Management. Prior to joining UKSIF, Simon was Head of Sustainable Financial Markets at the charity Forum for the Future.

**About the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)**

We are a membership organisation for those in the finance industry committed to growing sustainable and responsible finance in the UK.

Our vision is a fair, inclusive and sustainable financial system that works for the benefit of society and the environment.

UKSIF was created in 1991 and has 240+ members and affiliates include financial advisers, institutional and retail fund managers, pension funds, banks, research providers, consultants and NGOs. For more information about UKSIF, please visit [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org).

**Photos****Michael Meehan, incoming Chair of UKSIF****Simon Howard, CEO of UKSIF**

**Lesley Alexander, retiring Chair of UKSIF**

