

SOUTHWARK BREXIT PANEL EVIDENCE SESSION 3

THEME: BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

The following individual has been invited to give evidence on her views and experience of Brexit preparations.

Lorna Gavin: Head of Diversity, Inclusion & Corporate Responsibility, Gowling WLG

Lorna Gavin is Head of Diversity, Inclusion & Corporate Responsibility at commercial law firm Gowling WLG. For the 14 years prior to taking up the role in 2006, she was a practising corporate lawyer and latterly a partner. Lorna splits her time between the firm's London and Birmingham offices.

In her role, Lorna is responsible for the firm's pro bono, volunteering and charitable giving activities, diversity and wellbeing programmes and environmental strategy. Since 2001, Lorna has led the firm's engagement in the Ready for Work programme which has seen over 100 homeless people take part in work placements at the firm; some of them are on the payroll today. She helps the firm support over 80 charities, including NSPCC, RNIB and The Big Issue with pro bono and in kind support. She also leads collaborative community initiatives with clients and suppliers – in 2015 one such collaboration led to the creation of Suited for Success, an award winning charity providing business clothing for people facing multiple barriers to employment.

Lorna chairs the Southwark Business Forum. Lorna is a member of the West Midlands Combined Authority Homelessness Taskforce, leading its resourcing work-stream. She is also an ambassador for the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence. Lorna was named Corporate Social Responsibility/Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year 2017 by Birmingham Law Society and Inspiring Leader by Birmingham Future in 2018.