

Government urged to remove “chairman” from Companies House model articles

by *Practical Law Employment*

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Leading UK business groups have signed a letter calling on the government to remove the word “chairman” from Companies House model articles to show it is serious about gender equality in business.

A letter has been sent to the government calling for Companies House to replace the term “chairman” with the gender-neutral term “chair” in its model articles. This would prevent the “archaic” term being repeated in the articles of many thousands of businesses across the UK. The letter has been signed by the British Chambers of Commerce and all 53 of the Accredited Chambers across the UK, the Confederation of British Industry, the Institute of Directors and Make UK. The signatories state that language matters and that the use of gendered language is linked to differences in employment rates between men and women. The letter reports that 78% of directors are in support of this “small, but symbolic step” for gender equality in business.

Source: *British Chambers of Commerce: Leading business groups call on government to stop using archaic word ‘chairman’ (2 March 2022)*.

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