



## **KAREN LEFTLEY TO TAKE OVER AS PRESIDENT OF BQF AS DAVID CALLAGHAN STEPS DOWN**

***[LONDON, JULY 2019]***

We are to inform you that David Callaghan, President of the British Quality Foundation for 11 years, will be stepping down from his role with immediate effect, with Karen Leftley to fill the position as President.

### **David Callaghan commented:**

"We recently vacated our New Broad Street Offices to focus our energies and resources on developing our membership offering and evolving our associated services through a virtual, more agile, organisation. Further, we are working ever more closely with EFQM on the new 2020 Excellence Model to be released on 23rd October. BQF is part of the development team for the model transformation and has taken a lead role in helping design the new training pathway, which we strongly believe offers our members enormous potential to accelerate and refine the drive to achieving, and being recognised, for Excellence.

After 11 rewarding and inspiring years as President, I believe it is time for new leadership and am stepping down from the role. Karen Leftley has very kindly accepted the role of President with the full support of the Board of the BQF. Many of you will know Karen well, she has been on the Board for some 3 years representing BT as a Founder Member. Karen began her career in business operations and over the last 15 years has built a career focused on transformation, change and business improvement. She has been a lifelong advocate, ambassador and champion for excellence and was recognised as such at the BQF 25th anniversary Awards at Guildhall in 2018 with a Lifetime Achievement Award. I am completely confident that Karen has the insight, passion and leadership qualities to guide the organisation as it embraces the potential that the new developments will offer.

While Karen takes on the Presidency with immediate effect, I will remain on the Board until the end of the year to support her as she assumes the role – please join me in wishing Karen well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank BQF members, staff and board colleagues, both past and present, for the support, encouragement and inspiration during my tenure as President. We have worked through years of opportunity and challenge – Digital Transformation, financial turmoil and political change; and every year I have been inspired, particularly at the Excellence Awards, by the ability of individuals, teams and organisations to achieve extra-ordinary results through a commitment to be the best they can be through striving for excellence. It has been a privilege, thank you all."

**Karen Leftley, new President of BQF, commented:**

"I am absolutely delighted and honoured to accept the role of President of BQF. As many of you know I have a longstanding relationship with the organisation and being given the opportunity to lead it into the next exciting chapter is an absolute privilege. Having been part of an organisation who were founder members I've been luckily enough to have access to BQF and I've gained incredible value from the opportunity It gave me to meet, learn and build relationships with some incredibly talented people across many and varied organisations. What's always struck me as brilliant is no matter how big or small your challenge, how confident you are of knowing what needs to be done there is always someone within the member community who is willing to give you a new perspective or even just reassure you that you are on the right track.

A massive thank you to David Callaghan who has done an amazing job in his role as President over the last 11 - What an act to follow! I am so glad he has accepted to stay on the board for the remainder of this year as his experience is invaluable to us. Thank you also to Ian Swain, the BQF team and also the rest of my board colleagues who give a huge amount of time and energy to the organisation. And finally but most of all a massive thank you to our members who I know without doubt make UK excellence something we can all take immense pride in being part of.

Lastly, I would love to see you at our upcoming 2019 Excellence Showcase event on 19th September, hosted at the Adecco Group UK & Ireland, to learn from the 2019 UK Excellence Award winners! A limited number of places are available, so please make sure you secure early to avoid disappointment. Find out more [here](#)."

**About BQF:**

BQF is an independent membership organisation set up to promote, facilitate and reward sustained excellence in the UK. BQF's membership network helps members who are committed to continuously improving themselves through the use of a unique set of tools and services. Founded in 1993 by Government and leading UK businesses, BQF is Europe's largest corporate membership organisation dedicated to performance improvement. The EFQM Excellence model recognises organisations' approaches to identifying, prioritising, implementing and tracking improvements, while Lean Six Sigma provides a framework within which improvements to efficiency and productivity can be measured and assessed. For further information, please visit [www.bqf.org.uk](http://www.bqf.org.uk)

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