



LORD CHARLES
ALLEN

Major Career Roles

Group Chair, Balfour Beatty plc
Chair, THG plc

Chair and Senior Non-Executive Director, Global Media and Entertainment Ltd
Peer, UK House of Lords

Chair, Granada plc
CEO and COO, Granada Group
CEO, ITV plc

Chief Adviser, UK Home Office
Non-Executive Director, London Organising Committee, Olympic Games
Chair, Invictus Games

Other Career Highlights

Joint Deputy Chair, Granada plc

Chair, Manchester Commonwealth Games Ltd
Chair, EMI Music Ltd

Non-Executive Director, Tesco plc

Non-Executive Director, Virgin Media plc

Chair, Endemol BV

Senior Adviser, Goldman Sachs Private Equity Group

Chair, Boparan Holdings Ltd (2 Sisters Food Group)

Chair, ISS AS

Chair, ITV Breakfast Broadcasting Ltd

Lord Charles Allen is one of the UK's most seasoned and versatile business leaders, with a career spanning media, infrastructure, consumer services, and financial services. He currently serves as Group Chair of Balfour Beatty plc (since 2021), one of Britain's leading infrastructure groups, and Chair of THG plc (since 2022), where he is supporting governance transformation and strategic renewal. He is Senior Director at Global Media & Entertainment Ltd, the UK's largest commercial radio and digital audio business, a role he has held since 2007.

In parallel, Lord Allen serves as Chair of the Invictus Games Foundation and is an active member of the House of Lords.

His executive career included some of the UK's most prominent media leadership roles. As CEO of Granada Group and later Executive Chair of Granada Media, he played a pivotal role in the formation of ITV plc, where he served as CEO from 2003 to 2007. He subsequently led EMI Music as Executive Chair during a critical period of restructuring between 2008 and 2010. He also served as Chair of the British Horseracing Authority, reflecting his continued engagement in national institutions and regulated industries.

His previous non-executive roles also include Tesco plc (1999-2010), Virgin Media, Endemol, and Chair of ISS A/S (2013-2021). He also served as an advisor to Goldman Sachs Private Equity, Chair of 2 Sisters Food Group, and Advisory Chair of Moelis & Company.

Beyond the boardroom, Lord Allen has played a central role in major national events and public service. He was Chair of the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games, Vice-Chair of the successful London 2012 Olympic Bid, and a member of its organising committee. He also acted as Chief Adviser to the Home Office (2007-2008), bringing private sector thinking to public policy.

He brings deep cross-sector expertise in:

- Infrastructure & construction – strategic oversight of capital investment, delivery and ESG in complex national projects
- Media & consumer engagement – transforming legacy brands and platforms in an evolving digital landscape
- Governance & stakeholder relations – strengthening board effectiveness and investor confidence in public and private markets

Lord Allen was appointed CBE in 2002 and was appointed a Knight Bachelor in 2012 for services to the creative and media industries. He became a life peer in 2013. With a career defined by pragmatism, clarity and institutional reform, he continues to support leaders navigating complexity, reputation and long-term transformation.