DAME VIVIENNE COX

Major Career Roles

Chair, Victrex plc
Senior Independent Director, Pearson plc
Lead Independent Director, UK Department for International Development
Executive VP/Division CEO, BP plc
Chair, Vallourec SA

Other Career Highlights

Non-Executive Director, BG Group plc
Non-Executive Director, Climate Change Organisation
Board member, INSEAD
Chair, Climate Change Capital Group Ltd
Non-Executive Director, Eurotunnel plc
Member, Airports Commission
Non-Executive Director, GSK plc
Non-Executive Director, Venterra Group plc
Non-Executive Director, Rio Tinto plc

Dame Vivienne Cox currently serves as Chair of Victrex plc (since 2022), a company specialising in high-performance polymer technology, and is an Independent Non-Executive Director of Haleon plc (since 2022). She also serves as Chair of the Rosalind Franklin Institute (since 2018), where she guides national life-science innovation and public–private research collaborations, and as a Non-Executive Director of Venterra Group (since 2021). Her previous non-executive roles include Senior Independent Director at Pearson plc, and Non-Executive Director of GSK plc (2016-2022).

Dame Vivienne enjoyed a 28-year executive career at BP which culminated in senior leadership positions, including Executive Vice President for Gas, Power & Renewables, where she played a pivotal role in launching BP Alternative Energy Ltd.

Post BP, she has demonstrated a strong track record in sustainability-focused governance, including roles at Vallourec, Rio Tinto, and BG Group, as well as advisory positions with UK government bodies and humanitarian-focused charities.

She brings deep pan-sector expertise in:

• Advanced materials & industrial innovation – chairing technology platforms at the forefront of polymer and biotech deployment

• Health & life-sciences governance – steering institutional agendas at major R&D organisations and public–private initiatives

• ESG, energy transition & corporate strategy – pioneering renewable approaches in oil & gas and embedding sustainability at scale

• Board architecture & stakeholder insight – advising diverse boards on risk, governance, workforce engagement, and regulatory alignment

A chemist by training (Oxford MA) with an MBA from INSEAD and multiple honorary doctorates, Dame Vivienne is renowned for her strategic clarity, scientific fluency, and her ability to bridge technical, civic, and commercial realms. Dame Vivienne combines technical depth with strategic oversight in boardroom settings. She is a vocal champion of diversity and ESG-driven governance, recognised with a CBE (2016) and DBE (2022) for her services to sustainability, inclusion and business leadership.

Her holistic governance style – rooted in innovation, ethics, and delivery – positions her as a formidable mentor for leaders operating at the intersection of science, sustainability, and institutional excellence.