

Key Responsibilities of the Senior Independent Director

The following are responsibilities that are in addition to those expected of all non-executive directors and are specific to the role of a SID.

Acting as a Liaison

One of the primary roles of a SID is to act as a liaison between the chairperson and the other independent directors. This involves facilitating open communication and ensuring that independent directors' views are effectively conveyed to the chairperson.

Supporting the Chairperson

While the SID must provide a counterbalance to the chairperson, they also support the chairperson in their role. This includes offering advice, acting as a sounding board, and sometimes stepping in to chair meetings if the chairperson is unavailable or conflicted.

Handling Concerns

The SID is a point of contact for directors who have concerns that cannot be resolved through the usual channels. This includes dealing with issues related to the performance of the chairperson, board dynamics, or other sensitive matters.

Engaging with Shareholders

The SID plays an important role in engaging with shareholders, particularly in addressing any concerns they may have about the running of the company. This might involve attending meetings with major shareholders and ensuring that their views are communicated to the board.

Ensuring Good Governance

Ensuring that the board adheres to the highest standards of corporate governance is a critical responsibility of the SID. This includes making sure that the board's procedures are robust, that conflicts of interest are managed appropriately, and that the board remains effective in its decision-making processes.

Succession Planning

The SID contributes to succession planning for the board, particularly in relation to the chairperson. This involves identifying potential candidates, assessing their suitability, and ensuring a smooth transition when changes are made.

Advising on Strategy

While the primary strategic vision is set by the executive team, the SID provides valuable input and advice on the strategic direction of the company. This includes challenging assumptions, ensuring that all options are considered, and that the chosen strategy aligns with the interests of shareholders.