



**Webinar**

# Making the Case - Persuading Your Board to Tackle AI

March 19th 2026

with Special Guests



Helen van Orton



Alexie O'Brien



← Draft Agenda Push agenda

- 1. Opening meeting
  - 1.1 Confirm minutes
  - 1.2 Interests Register
- 2. Major Decisions and Discussions
  - 2.1 First item for decision...
  - 2.2 First item for discussion...
- 3. Board Annual Work Plan
  - There are no agenda items for this section. Select an option below to add one.
- 4. Actions from Previous Meetings

### Confirm minutes

Purpose: To confirm minutes from last meeting  
Presenter: Jonathan Reed  
Duration: 5 mins

Minutes to be confirmed:

 Board Meeting Minutes – 18 March 2026 Confirm

Add a Minute...

Note Decision Action

No minutes

Supporting Documents:

Drag and drop files here, or [click to select files.](#)

08:00 BoardPro JR

#### My BoardPro dashboard

My Upcoming meetings 2 Past meetings

All boards All upcoming meetings

MAR 18 2026 AMCE Q1 Growth & Investment Meeting  
10:00 Am Boardroom 1

Agenda Board pack Minutes

Jun 18 2026 AMCE Q1 Growth & Investment Meeting  
10:00 Am Boardroom 1

Agenda Board pack

Signature required 1 Actions

AMCE

 Board Resolution – Approval of Strategic Investment.pdf



# **Making the fundamentals of governance free and easy to implement**



Governance Made Easy

# Governance Resource Center

Explore free governance resources for growing your organisation and adopting good governance practises. From meeting minutes templates to CEO reporting templates, our comprehensive guides and templates will cover your governance and business essentials.

Content type



Topic



Persona



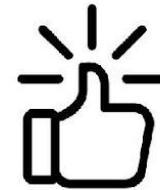
Search





**Slides, webinar video,  
transcript and slides will be  
sent to you. Sit back, relax and  
enjoy the conversation**

---





**Helen van Orton**

Founder / CEO  
**Directorly**



**Alexie O'Brien**

Director  
**Leadership Academy**



# Making the Case for AI: Why Boards Must Act Now

Persuasive arguments and practical steps for board-level engagement





# The AI Imperative for Modern Governance



## What has changed (and why boards are behind)

- ✓ AI is already embedded in products, decisions, and supplier tools.
- ✓ Agentic AI is changing the way work is done - NOW
- ✓ This shifts risk, accountability, and strategy, even without a formal AI programme.
- ✓ Boards need visibility, governance, and a credible plan, not hype

## Your Takeaways

- ✓ A simple board narrative you can use next week
- ✓ The 5 arguments that land with sceptical directors
- ✓ A 90-day plan: visibility, governance, first pilots
- ✓ A director checklist for oversight and assurance



# The Boardroom Reality Check

**88%**

Of enterprises now use AI in at least one function

**42%**

Of CEOs say their company won't survive 10 years without AI transformation

**66%**

Of boards admit limited to no AI knowledge or experience

**31%**

Global boards still failing to address AI governance

## Plus D&O providers in the US are changing cover for AI

The governance shift is already here: AI is embedded across the business, and boards are now expected to AI know where it is, how it's controlled, and how it's disclosed.

Sources: McKinsey State of AI Nov 2025, PwC CEO Survey 2025, Deloitte Global Board Survey 2025



# The boardroom conversation

## What gets said

- ✓ AI is premature
- ✓ We don't use AI
- ✓ We lack expertise
- ✓ AI is moving too fast
- ✓ Management can deal with it

## What's really underneath

- ✓ Unseen exposure and weak visibility
- ✓ Shadow AI via tools and vendors
- ✓ Confidence gap, not capability gap
- ✓ Ambiguity aversion and fear of being wrong
- ✓ Accountability diffusion

## Board stance

- ✓ Set minimum controls + reporting now
- ✓ Map AI use (incl. third parties) + assign owners
- ✓ Build governance fluency + clarify accountabilities
- ✓ Define risk appetite + trigger points to adapt
- ✓ Board sets oversight expectations + assurance cadence



# The boardroom conversation

## Objections you will hear

- ✓ AI is premature

---

- ✓ We don't use AI

---

- ✓ We lack expertise

---

- ✓ AI is moving too fast

---

- ✓ Management can deal with it

## Board response (reframe + ask)

- ✓ **Reframe:** AI is already present in tools and vendors. The risk is unmanaged use.  
**Ask:** Where is AI used today (including third parties), and what controls and reporting exist?

---

- ✓ **Reframe:** Non-use is rarely true. AI shows up in platforms, features, and workflows.  
**Ask:** What's our inventory of AI-enabled tools and vendor claims, and who owns it?

---

- ✓ **Reframe:** The board needs governance fluency, not technical mastery.  
**Ask:** Who is accountable for AI risk and what evidence will we see quarterly?

---

- ✓ **Reframe:** Speed is why we need clear risk appetite and escalation triggers.  
**Ask:** What are our 'pause / escalate / adapt' trigger points and decision rights?

---

- ✓ **Reframe:** Management executes. The board sets oversight expectations and assurance.  
**Ask:** What assurance cadence and metrics will demonstrate control effectiveness?



# Your Roadmap to Action

## Goal:

get board alignment, then move to visibility, governance, and a first controlled pilot.



### Phase 1: 30 Days

**Deliverable:** Board education session completed

**Expert Briefing:** Arrange 90-min session with AI governance specialist for board education on risks, opportunities, and oversight.

**Recurring Agenda Item:** Schedule quarterly AI governance updates covering risk, regulation, and strategy.



### Phase 2: 60 Days

**Deliverable:** Draft AI governance framework

**Develop Governance Framework (Draft):** Management drafts comprehensive AI governance policy, including ethics, risk protocols, and monitoring systems.



### Phase 3: 90 Days

**Deliverable:** Approved framework and pilot launch

**Finalise Governance Framework:** Secure approval for the comprehensive AI governance policy.

**Initiate Pilot Programme:** Launch one controlled pilot with clear success measures, guardrails, and board reporting.



# The Director's AI Readiness Checklist

## Five Questions Every Director Should Ask at the Next Board Meeting

Do we have a comprehensive inventory of how AI is currently being used - and where it is being used without our knowledge?

Has management developed a clear AI strategy with defined risk appetite, performance metrics, and accountability structures?

Do we have a board-approved AI governance policy that addresses data, ethics, privacy, and responsible AI?

Are we investing in AI literacy for directors and the broader workforce - and can we demonstrate due diligence?

How does our AI maturity against peers, and what would a 90-day pilot look like for our highest-value opportunity?

**Bring these questions to your next board meeting.  
If you cannot answer them confidently, that is your governance gap**

Adapted from Deloitte Global Boardroom Programme (second Good Forum on Corporate Governance 2025)





# Your Board Has a Choice

## Ignore AI

- Shadow AI grows unchecked
- Governance gaps widen
- Competitor advantage compounds
- Director liability exposure increases

## Delegate AI

- Treat it as an IT problem
- Miss the strategic opportunity
- Lose visibility of risk
- Fall behind - fast

## Govern AI

- Use the 90-day roadmap
- Build minimum viable governance
- Invest in your people
- Lead with confidence

"Your people are already using AI. Your competitors are already investing in it. The only thing missing is your board at the table."



# Resources & Next Steps



## Resources:

- [IoD NZ - A Director's Guide to AI Board Governance \(2024\)](#)
- [AICD - A Directors guide to AI governance \(2024\)](#)



20% Discount for webinar attendees :  
Use code **20MCDISCOUNT**



**Helen van Orton**

**in** [www.linkedin.com/in/helen-van-orton](https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-van-orton)



**Alexie O'Brien**

**in** [www.linkedin.com/in/alexieobrien](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexieobrien)



# BoardPro Special Offer

**50% off year one  
subscription - all plans**



**Start your free trial today**

**Unlimited Users | No Credit Card Required**



# Webinar Schedule

2026

---

275.	<b>Your New Board Director Journey - Where do you start</b>	April 16
276.	<b>To pay or not to pay your directors</b>	April 23
277.	<b>Who sank the boat? The complexity of psychosocial hazards in practice</b>	April 30
278.	<b>Induction planning for new directors (3-6-12 months)</b>	May 7
279.	<b>Beyond Compliance: Turning Risk into Strategic Insight</b>	May 14
280.	<b>What is healthy governance?</b>	May 21



# Thank you

---