



## Dr Chris Gibson-Smith CBE

### Current Positions

For the last six years Dr Chris Gibson-Smith has been chairman of the Just Group, which sells financial products into the life insurance retirement market in the UK, and manages some £25 billion of financial assets for its clients.

### Background Information

Dr Chris Gibson-Smith is a scientist by background, with science degrees from Durham, Newcastle, and Stanford Universities. These include a PhD in geochemistry from Newcastle, and an MS in business science from the Stanford School of Business.

Chris's career has been global, spanned 50 years, and included the energy, mining, finance, property, and public sectors. His roles were largely executive for the first 30 years, but he has accumulated 45 years of main board experience, 28 of those as a chairman. Throughout this time he has been active in charitable, social, and environmental roles.

As an executive, Chris ran large pieces of the BP global portfolio in the 1980s and 1990s. These included being the BP Chief Geologist, President of the US oil and gas business, CEO of the European oil and gas business, and COO of the global petrochemical business. He then joined the BP main board, with responsibility for Asia, Africa, global science and technology, political relations, crisis management, and environmental/NGO relationships.

Chris began his transition to chairmanship by privatising the UK's National Air Traffic System for the 2001 Labour Government. Then, as chairman for twelve years, Chris oversaw the transformation of the London Stock Exchange, from a £3 to a £38 share-price, and through five hostile takeover attempts. This coincided with being chairman of British Land, the UK's second largest commercial property company, including shepherding it through the 2008 financial crisis.

### Other Notable Interests

As well as wide experience throughout Europe, he has had extensive dealings with China and Asia, with Russia and the former Soviet block, and with the USA and Canada. As a result, in addition to the challenges of doing business in all these countries, he also has deep political and regulatory knowledge. In the US, he worked closely with Congress, the Fed and the SEC. In Russia, he supported the Ministry of Finance and the Kremlin in developing financial, economic, and regulatory standards for the Russian economy. Finally, in China he was actively engaged with political and regulatory leaders over a thirty year time span.

Dr Chris Gibson-Smith is based in London.