

# ODA People

**Sir David Higgins**  
**ODA role: Chief Executive**  
**Now: Chairman, HS2**

"The biggest factor that contributed to the ODA's success was creating a culture in the organisation where people could excel and achieve their maximum potential in an environment that was built around respecting other people and encouraging diversity of thought. It is critically important to set the right values and culture at the very start of new projects."



**Bayo Dosunmu**  
**ODA role: Head of Transport Integration**  
**Now: Director of Public Transport Division, Welsh Government**

"My role at the ODA taught me to be clear about what success looks like and to build collective buy-in to that vision while juggling relationships, programme and risk management to deliver it. Building strong relationships is crucial to an organisation's success."

**Patricia Duncan**  
**ODA role: Personal assistant to Head of Security**  
**Now: Personal assistant, Balfour Beatty Rail**

"Team work and forward planning was a huge part of delivering London 2012. One of the most important things I learnt on the project was that having systems and processes in place from the outset was vital to plan and deliver a safe and successful Games. While working at the ODA I developed much greater knowledge and understanding of health and safety, business continuity and emergency planning, and I now use these skills with confidence in my new role."



**Richard Jackson**  
**ODA role: Principal sustainability manager**  
**Now: Director, Sustainability, University College London**

"At the ODA we delivered one of the most sustainable construction projects of its scale and budget - built on collaboration, teamwork, robust processes, great communications, engagement, leadership, and a clear and challenging strategy with ambitious targets. For me, working on the Olympic Park highlighted the importance of good teamwork - even when there are difficult decisions to make, a strong team is able to find a way forward. At UCL, one of my first priorities has been to build a sustainability team who are collaborative, persuasive and communicative."

**Kenna Kintrea**  
**ODA role: Deputy Director, Venues and Infrastructure**  
**Now: Assurance Director, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

"The successful delivery of the venues and infrastructure had a big impact on public perceptions of the UK's ability to deliver large, complex projects. It gave a huge boost of confidence, not only to those directly involved, but to UK industry and the public at large. The lessons we learned included the need for a strong, overriding objective that the whole delivery team can buy into and easily understand. The fixed deadline and the public profile of the ODA programme were easy to communicate and provided powerful incentives for everyone to coalesce around the mission."



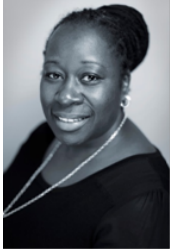
**Simon Knowles**  
**ODA role: Marketing manager**  
**Now: Head of Brand and Digital, Cystic Fibrosis Trust**

"The ODA taught me that a well-run and productive organisation is one in which everyone understands, respects and utilises each other's specific skills. Key skills that I have taken onto my new role include developing websites, producing video, measuring levels of engagement and multi-tasking."

**Loraine Martins**

**ODA role: Head of Equality, Inclusion, Employment and Skills**

**Now: Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Network Rail**



“Skills from my role at the ODA, such as setting clear strategies and stakeholder engagement, have been invaluable at Network Rail, a UK-wide organisation with 34,000 staff who work in a variety of disciplines, functions and conditions. A significant number of our Tier One contractors are now promoting diversity and inclusion, drafting action plans; signing up to government initiatives; receiving independent validation of their approaches to diversity and inclusion; and working across industry and sectors seeking to increase diversity generally and particularly gender diversity.”



**Alison Nimmo CBE**

**ODA role: Director, Design and Regeneration**

**Now: Chief Executive, The Crown Estate**

“The team that worked on London 2012 are our greatest ambassadors, working on projects such as Crossrail and HS2 and major sporting events right across the globe. In this way we are all helping to embed many of the real innovations and successes from London 2012 into projects and businesses - big and small. At the ODA we sought to pass on our most important innovations, successes and learnings through the London 2012 Learning Legacy programme.”

**Gabriel Olufemi**

**ODA role: Graduate solicitor**

**Now: Solicitor, Pinsent Masons, Qatar**



“Working at the ODA has given me the skills to give pragmatic legal and commercial advice to clients to drive delivery. This is vital for projects that have an immovable deadline such as critical infrastructure projects. For me personally, advising on the delivery of venues and infrastructure at the ODA that now have real legacy benefit after the London 2012 Games was hugely rewarding.”

**Kerry Underhill**

**ODA role: Commercial manager**

**Now: Deputy Director, Commercial, Home Office**



“The experience I gained in major programme public procurement has been invaluable in my new role procuring the Emergency Services Network, delivering critical voice and broadband data services to the police, fire and ambulance services. In particular, my peers taught me how to identify dependencies and plan for success, manage a very large and complex stakeholder community and see the bigger picture to achieve the right result. It also taught me the most important lesson of all, how to keep calm under pressure!”

**Lawrence Waterman**

**ODA role: Head of Health and Safety**

**Now: Head of Health and Safety, Battersea Power Station**



“This was the first Olympic Games to be constructed without a fatality, and the lowest accident rate that any major UK project has achieved. I joined the ODA as an experienced health and safety advisor, and left with a much greater understanding of the key issues that shaped our effort – leadership at every level, worker engagement, and managing occupational health risks. That is what I have taken to Battersea Power Station, and to my colleagues at the other major projects along the Vauxhall/Nine Elms corridor.”



**Stuart Wilson**

**ODA role: Project sponsor, Athletes' Village**

**Now: Director, Waterlock**

“London 2012 delivered more public realm, to a high quality, faster than anything else I have been involved with in more than 25 years in the industry. However, it is the exceptional performance in managing health, safety and environmental issues that has set new standards for others to follow. The calibre of those involved was exceptionally high throughout - having the best people in each discipline is the surest way to deliver any large and complicated project.”