Women on boards 2013 provides an overview of the progress that has been made to improve female board representation in the two years since the original report was published. The 2013 report shows that women now occupy 17.3% of all board positions of FTSE 100 companies. In 2010, this figure was just 12.5%. The Cranfield University School of Management published its report The Female FTSE Board Report 2013: False Dawn of Progress for Women on Boards? (Cranfield Report) on 10 April.

The Cranfield Report suggests that any progress made to date is of only limited significance and that the pace of change needs to accelerate if the targets set by Lord Davies in 2011 are to be achieved.

At a recent ‘Women on Boards Leadership Forum’ in Parliament which I organised, Antony Jenkins, the new group chief executive of Barclays, spoke of the business value he feels women bring to the workplace. He admitted though, that some chairmen and chief executives have yet to be convinced of the benefits of diversity in the board room.

The Lord Davies Commission, set up after the former trade minister reported on the lack of women at the top table, has made progress with the overall levels of women on boards now looking far more likely to reach 25pc in our largest companies by 2020. But this...
seats), an increase of 28 on the 2012 figures. The overall percentage of female-held board directorships is 17.3%, an uplift of 2.3% on last year’s figure. The number of FTSE 100 companies with all-male boards has dropped to seven and two thirds (67%) of the FTSE 100 have more than one woman on their board. In the first six months the pace of change was extremely encouraging. There was a sharp increase in the percentage of new appointments going to women on bo