



# SFA TRUSTEE & CHAIR OF THE FINANCE & RISK COMMITTEE

## at the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA)

### OVERVIEW

**Post Title:** SFA Trustee & Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee

**Payment:** Unremunerated, reasonable expenses covered

**Time Commitment:** Board & Finance & Risk sub-committee meetings, & support between meetings – detailed below

**Tenure:** Initial term of three years; potential for renewal with mutual agreement

**Responsible To:** Chair of the Board

**Location:** Hybrid

**Date Issued:** March 2026

**Start Date:** ASAP

### ABOUT THE SFA

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) is a non-profit international organisation working with the extended cashmere supply chain, from herders to retailers, to promote a global sustainability standard for cashmere. Our vision is a responsible & inclusive global natural fibres sector that safeguards the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment. Founded in 2015, we are a standards-holding and capacity-building organisation with offices and subsidiaries in the UK, Mongolia and China. Our SFA Animal Fibre Standard offers a holistic, evidence-based sustainability standard for cashmere and other animal-based fibres that is both global in focus and locally adaptable.

Now in its second decade, the SFA is entering a pivotal stage of its development and is expanding its Board.

Strong Board oversight is essential to ensuring the credibility and effectiveness of the SFA's work, and we are seeking to appoint new Board Members with expertise in the following areas:

- **Finance** – strengthening financial planning, reporting and controls
- **Human Resources (HR)** – supporting organisational development
- **Standards Systems** – enhancing oversight and technical governance

**This role outline details our requirements for a Finance-focused trustee. If you bring other skills – particularly in Human Resources or Standards Systems – that would be beneficial to the Board, we would still very much like to hear from you.**

### ABOUT THIS ROLE

The postholder will serve as the principal financial trustee, advising the Board on long-term financial sustainability and stewardship for the Sustainable Fibre Alliance and its subsidiaries. As Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee (a sub-committee of the main SFA Board), they will help the Board discharge its responsibilities for risk oversight, assurance, and internal control. The role will also act as counsel and sounding board for the SFA's Head of Finance, working with them to deliver the highest standards of financial and risk governance and ensure the Board is able to effectively fulfil its duties.

The postholder will report to and be supported by the Chair of the SFA Board.

The time commitment for this role will include:

- Attendance at SFA Board meetings (three in-person (full day) and two online meetings (half day) per year), and the associated preparation/follow-up
- Chairing SFA Finance and Risk Committee meetings (four meetings a year, likely online), and the associated preparation/follow-up
- Occasional ad-hoc support for the Board and Executive between meetings
- It is anticipated that the time commitment is likely to be higher in the early days of this role, whilst the Finance and Risk Committee is set up and ways of working are established

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish and chair the Finance and Risk Committee (FRC), ensuring balanced governance across finance, audit, risk and assurance
- Represent the FRC at Board meetings and report on key issues
- Serve as the principal financial trustee, advising the Board on financial sustainability and stewardship
- Oversee financial policies, budgets, reserves and investments
- Oversee external audit processes; liaise with external auditors and advisers if and as needed
- Ensure financial and non-financial assurance activities support legal, regulatory and governance compliance
- Champion a strong risk and assurance culture, integrating these into decision-making; oversee the organisational risk register and ensure effective internal controls
- Fulfil the essential duties of a trustee, as outlined by [the Charity Commission](#)

## SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

### Required:

- A qualified finance professional with experience in finance, accounting and/or financial management. Specific knowledge of charity finance is an advantage, otherwise a commitment to learn is welcomed, drawing from sound commercial experience
- Demonstrable understanding of and commitment to the principles of good governance in the charity and community interest company (CIC) context
- A strategic thinker with an ability to balance risk and opportunity
- Clear communicator with the ability to bring the financial information alive to non-finance specialists and build Board capacity in this area
- Willing to play an active role in areas of financial management as detailed above, and discharge the broader duties of a trustee

### Desirable:

- Experience of holding a charitable Treasurer, non-executive director or similar governance position
- Experience of senior leadership at an executive level
- Knowledge and/or strong interest in sustainability challenges related to livestock production and the fashion/textile industry
- Experience and/or language skills related to working in Mongolia and/or China

## TO APPLY

### Informal conversation:

Please email [info@sustainablefibre.org](mailto:info@sustainablefibre.org) to arrange an informal discussion with our Board Chair, [Ian Whiteford](#).

### Application:

To apply for this role, please send an email marked 'Vacancy: Finance Trustee', including your CV and a cover letter, to [jobs@sustainablefibre.org](mailto:jobs@sustainablefibre.org).



Please note that applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, please note that we cannot provide feedback to candidates who are unsuccessful in being shortlisted for interview.