

TRUSTEE TESTIMONIAL

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WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE ON A VOLUNTARY TRUSTEESHIP?

Having spent over 20 years in Marketing and Sales in the profit sector, I saw this as an opportunity to share my skills and experience and work with other talented and skilled people outside of my own sector. On a personal level, I really wanted to get involved in the not for profit or charity sector. Like everyone, I’ve donated to and raised funds for charities that were close to me, but in 2018 I felt the time was right to make a practical difference, and Boardmatch helped me make that happen. It eventually posed itself in an opportunity to serve on the board of the brilliant Beaumont Hospital Foundation.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT BY BEING ON A BOARD?

I’ve learned a lot around the practicalities, such as reading and **trying** to understand charity accounts, the Charities Regulator and the various legal and regulatory requirements. I am lucky to work with a really great group on Beaumont Hospital Foundation’s board, many with years of experience in this space, and learn something at each encounter!

HOW DID YOU APPROACH CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON YOUR BOARD?

While we have had different views, to date, I haven’t encountered any conflict on the board. Listening, challenge and collaboration are key to operating as a successful board.

It's important to listen to the management team and fellow trustees, but to also challenge each other to ensure the best decisions are being made for the good of the charity. Challenge is a positive thing on a board, but respecting people's views, listening to understand and ultimately collaborating on all decisions are all necessary to the success of a board.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE TIME MANAGEMENT WITH RESPECTS TO YOUR DAY-JOB AND VOLUNTARY BOARD POSITION?

I've been very lucky. The company I work for is very supportive of the voluntary work I do with Beaumont Hospital Foundation. Yes, I need to make time to review board papers, accounts, attend meetings and calls, but in terms of carving that time out, they facilitate flexibility, which makes it much easier to manage both.

HOW HAS YOUR BOARD EXPERIENCE AFFECTED YOU PERSONALLY?

Being on a board has opened my mind to the extremely hard work that goes into raising even the smallest amount of money, it's also reawakened me to the generosity of people and reminded me of the impact we can have by giving just a little back. Beaumont Hospital Foundation do fantastic work for the North Dublin area, supporting areas across the whole hospital. Sometimes the smallest help, such as a new air conditioning unit in a ward or a family room, can have a real and positive impact on patients and their families. At the beginning of October, I attended the Stand Out For Breast Cancer lunch, which is part of a fundraising campaign to support the building of a Breast Clinic on Beaumont Hospital's campus. The warmth and generosity that oozed in the room that day was phenomenal.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING JOINING A CHARITY BOARD?

Do it! Do it, but make sure it's right for you and you can commit to it. It's very rewarding, but you need to do it for the right reasons. While being on a board can enhance your skills and experience, **you** need to bring something to the table too. It can be time consuming and it can be hard work, but you have a responsibility to the charity and, indeed, to every donor. You get out of it what you put in and the reward can be immense.