

06 July 2017

Lendlease awarded National Equality Standard for approach to diversity

Leading property and construction group Lendlease has been recognised for its progressive approach to diversity, becoming the first UK property group and one of the first construction companies to be awarded the National Equality Standard.

The National Equality Standard (NES) was developed by business for business and sets out clear equality, diversity and inclusion criteria. Independently assessed by EY, the NES is now being utilised globally and is supported by the Home Office, the CBI and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Lendlease was praised by EY for playing a leading role in a sector often considered 'too difficult' for diversity and inclusion. As part of its commitment to promoting greater diversity and equality, Lendlease has:

- introduced wellbeing leave for all employees
- rolled out mental health wellbeing training to over 600 staff
- signed the Time to Change pledge aimed at ending mental health stigma - the first UK construction company to do so
- become a founding member of BuildingEquality - an industry group established to tackle homophobia and encourage more LGBT people to consider working in construction
- been an active member and signatory of Real Estate Balance – an industry group to promote gender balance across the property and construction sector
- introduced a 50:50 graduate intake to help grow the number of woman entering the industry.

Arun Batra, Chief Executive of the National Equality Standard, said:

"I am absolutely delighted that Lendlease has become the first property group and one of the first construction companies to obtain the National Equality Standard.

"The hard work that they have undertaken and the obvious commitment they have demonstrated to their diversity and inclusion agenda is something which they should be very proud of, and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate them on this achievement."

Simon Feeke, Lead Assessor for the National Equality Standard, said:

"Lendlease has proven that it is possible to drive meaningful change in a sector that is often considered 'too difficult' for diversity and inclusion efforts.



“Their determination to progress globally consistent goals of gender equity, flexible work and inclusive leadership is demonstrated through a courageous attitude, a variety of impactful and measurable initiatives and crucially, leadership accountability.”

Dan Labbad, Lendlease’s Chief Executive Officer, International Operations said:

“We are pleased to have been recognised as the first property group to successfully achieve this highly regarded standard.

“Promoting greater diversity and inclusivity is a key industry challenge and the work of the National Equality Standard provides a valuable platform to help businesses address this important priority.”

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the National Equality Standard:

- The UK National Equality Standard was developed by business for business and sets clear equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) criteria against which companies are independently assessed. The NES is now being utilised globally.
- It is supported by the Home Office and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) was involved in its development and launch.
- The NES has become the accepted standard for inclusiveness in business across the UK and numerous organisations across all sectors have now completed the process which has generated outstanding feedback from both the public and private sectors.
- Participation in an NES assessment ensures long term sustainable change, a beneficial impact in productivity and growth and provides a detailed roadmap with recommendations to help implement those areas requiring improvement.

About Lendlease:

- Lendlease is a leading international property and infrastructure group. In the UK, it is the only fully integrated retail, residential and commercial provider delivering end-to-end property solutions. The company has core capabilities in development, investment management, construction, asset and property management.
- Lendlease is behind some of London’s largest and most exciting mixed-use regeneration projects such as Elephant & Castle and International Quarter London.
- Lendlease is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and operates in four key regions – Australia, Asia, Americas and Europe. The group has more than 12,000 employees worldwide.
- Lendlease was recognised as the UK’s Most Sustainable Residential Developer by the NextGeneration Sustainability Benchmark for setting new standards of sustainability and customer engagement in 2016, scoring more than double the industry average.

