

Thales Leadership in the UK



Phil Siveter

Chief Executive Officer, UK

Phil Siveter is an advocate for the power of technology to positively impact lives and improve society, but has a firm belief that it is people, when able to perform at their best, who are the true agents of change and progress.

Following a four-year tenure as CEO for Nokia in the UK & Ireland, Phil was appointed as Chief Executive of Thales UK in October 2024.

Directly employing 7,000 people UK-wide and contributing around £2bn to the country’s GDP, Thales in the UK provides safety and security infrastructure and sovereign capability to sectors as diverse as defence, banking and aerospace. Its varied projects range from delivering the digital identity and security that underpins our connected world, to the air defence capabilities that nations rely on to deter aggression.

Phil brings over 20 years of leadership experience in the technology industry to the Thales Group and, prior to his roles in Nokia, he worked at Ciena and BT, where he held numerous operational roles. Phil has particularly strong experience of Public Sector & Enterprise markets and in delivering critical services. He has also held delivery and operational positions at Sirocom, Nortel and Energis.

He is a keen advocate of the social enterprise model and has been an advisor to Social Enterprise Berkshire and to the Beyond Boyle Foundation, which aims to transform lives through the power of cooking. Phil also previously served on the board of the Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce (FBCC).

Phil is born and bred in Reading and lives in the local area with his wife and children.



Chris Shaw

Chief Operating Officer, UK

Chris Shaw was appointed Chief Operating Officer for Thales UK in March 2020.

He started his career in the automotive industry working for PSA Peugeot Citroen as an electrical design engineer before senior roles in Quality, Operations and New Model launch both in the UK and France.

After 10 years with PSA, Chris joined Goodrich Actuation Systems becoming Vice President for Secondary Flight Controls, then CEO of Goodrich Actuation Systems France, headquartered in Paris, where he ran the combined French and Italian Actuation Systems business. He returned to the UK following the acquisition of Goodrich by United Technologies to lead the creation of the Operations function within the new organisation.

Prior to joining Thales, Chris spent 5 years at Cobham plc, initially as Executive Vice President for Operations and Supplier Management before being promoted to Chief Operations Officer.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS), Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (FIMechE), is a Chartered Engineer (CEng) and has an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Nikki Kelly

Interim Chief Growth Officer, UK

A dynamic and results-driven leader, Nikki brings extensive experience in building and leading high-performing teams to deliver strategic growth and impactful business outcomes. With a passion for data-driven decision-making and cross-functional collaboration Nikki combines analytical expertise with strategic vision.

Her deep domain knowledge in the Public Sector has been instrumental in delivering innovative, high-impact solutions for clients, driving growth and positively impacting the lives of millions of citizens.

Nikki’s career started as an IT graduate at Marks & Spencer’s where her reputation for delivery enabled her to take responsibility for a number of core transformational projects. This expertise has since brought success for her at Microsoft, Defra, Polecat, The Home Office and ATOS where she has held senior leadership roles with responsibility for transformation and growth.

Most recently Nikki has been a strategic advisor to the CGI CEO and Board on their market and growth opportunities for UK&I and Australia and to the CEO at Methods, the leading digital transformation partner for the UK public sector, where her focus has been on transforming sales and driving growth.

Outside of work, Nikki enjoys gardening, learning golf and is currently planning her wedding for the end of the year.



Mike Sewart

Chief Technology Officer, UK

With a background in Computer Science, Mike started his career as a graduate in Fujitsu, working in many areas of the business and ultimately becoming Chief Technology Officer before moving to QinetiQ in 2017.

Mike was at the forefront of QinetiQ's "mission-led innovation approach", setting strategic direction and driving world class science, technology & engineering capability to bring innovative solutions to a range of customers. As CTO, he enabled cross domain/discipline R&D expertise with global operational delivery teams to help differentiate QinetiQs products and services.

Throughout his career, Mike has enjoyed working with a range of customers from the Public Sector; Home Office, MOD and DSIT through to well-known global brands including the Ministry of Sound, Sega and Virgin. He co-chairs the MOD/Industry RTIG (Research, Technology & Innovation Group), and will continue to do so when he joins Thales.

As someone passionate in developing future talent, Mike sponsored the QinetiQ 'Fellows' scheme and played an active role in the development of apprentices and other early careers colleagues. This is something he hopes to continue to do at Thales.

Originally from Stockport but now living in Wokingham with his wife, Gwen, and their three teenage boys. As a family, sport is something they enjoy together with football, running and cycling keeping him fit and busy outside of work!



Thierry Gentgen

Chief Financial Officer, UK

With a Thales career spanning over 30 years, Thierry brings considerable experience from the many roles he has enjoyed around the world.

Thierry began his career in the early 90s, after completing a Masters in Business Administration and Finance, when he joined Thomson-CSF UK in London as a Business Analyst supporting the UK strategic plan for growth through strategic JVs and acquisitions. He later moved to Paris to support international trade and M&A activities across Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

In 2000, Thierry relocated to Australia to lead the acquisition financing and integration of ADI Limited into Thales before moving to Singapore to lead Thales Asia Regional finance department and support the development of Thales multi domestic organisation in Asia.

Since returning to Europe, Thierry has held Finance Director roles across several business lines including training and simulation and cybersecurity as well as complex bids and projects in both France and the UK.

Over the past 12 years, he has been VP Finance for Air Systems, DMS and most recently AVS where he has supported the AVS BLs across the US, Europe and Asia through the aerospace crisis and the reorganisation of the AVS businesses.

Thierry sees himself as a Thales Citizen of the World and lives west of Paris with his family.



Suzanne Stratton

VP Legal & Contracts, UK

Suzanne Stratton is the Vice President of Legal & Contracts UK and in her role, she has responsibility for the legal, contract management, export control and secretariat activities for Thales UK. She is also the UK Compliance Officer. She has over 20 years of commercial management experience.

Suzanne joined Racal Electronics Plc (acquired by Thales in 2000) and has held various positions within the Secure Communications and Information Systems and Defence Mission Systems businesses.

Suzanne graduated with a Business Studies degree with honours in 1994.



Lynne Watson

VP Human Resource, UK

Lynne was appointed to the role of VP Human Resources in September 2017. She is responsible for delivering the UK People Strategy, ensuring that Thales in the UK attracts, develops and retains the best talent now and in the future.

Born and educated on the Clyde, Lynne turned down a place at University to study English Literature, choosing instead to join the Civil Service as an Apprentice, directly from school. Completing the apprenticeship with an HNC in Public Administration, Lynne then moved into the Financial Services industry progressing to Customer Service management. Lynne decided to work in Human Resources after ten years of managing large numbers of call centre teams. She completed her CIPD Diploma while expecting her first son, and found herself doing a job she loved as an HR professional.

Lynne joined Thales in April 2009, after having held senior HR positions across a number of sectors including Telecoms, Financial Services, FMCG and complex engineering. She joined directly from Cable & Wireless where she was Senior Business Partner to the Chief Operating Officer. Lynne has also worked for Pernod Ricard, National Australia Bank, Britannia Life and Cigna Healthcare.

Since joining Thales, Lynne has held positions mainly focused on people development, including Head of Learning Development for our UK land defence business and Director of Talent for Thales in the UK. As an avid promoter of diversity and inclusion, and being a working mum with two teenage sons, she lives in Glasgow and uses Thales UK's 'smart working' practises to balance her life in and out of work.

Lynne is an avid rugby fan, supporting both the Glasgow Warriors and Scotland.



Michael Seabrook

Company Secretary, UK

Mike is Company Secretary, Director of Ethics and UK Compliance Officer for Thales UK.

Mike started his career in the Group Secretariat of Racal Electronics Plc in 1986 where he qualified as a Chartered Secretary in 1991.

During his time with Racal he held various positions including Head of Insurance, Assistant Company Secretary of Chubb Security Plc and worked in the Secretariat of Racal Telecom (now Vodafone Group Plc) which included the flotation and eventual demerger of Vodafone from Racal.





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