



PRESS RELEASE

## The NatWest Banking Group has appointed Oliver St. Clair Franklin, OBE to its Ethnic Advisory Council.

Mr. Franklin joins six other members who are leaders and specialists from across different industries including journalism, business, education, and asset management.

The council, one of two advisory boards to the bank, was formed from the October 2020 report *Banking on Racial Equality: A RoadMap for Positive Change*, and the resulting ten commitments and a new target designed to make meaningful, positive change for the Banks' Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic colleagues, customers, and communities.

Simon McNamara, Group Chief Administrative Officer and Chair of the Council said; "Launching our Ethnic Advisory Council is another important step in our journey to becoming an ethnically diverse organization which champions the potential of people from all cultures, faiths and backgrounds. We want to embrace inclusivity to help people thrive. We can learn so much from such a diverse group of external; advisors and I'm delighted to be a part of this to help shape our thinking and guide our actions to make a positive impact."

"We live in a global ethnic and cultural world," Mr. Franklin said, "and this appointment is an opportunity for me to learn from the best UK Equity and inclusion practices and bring the best US practices to the discussion."

Oliver St. Clair Franklin, OBE has had a distinguished career in financial and public services. He is a former Senior Vice President of Dreyfus and Fidelity Investment and a founding Partner of RISA Investment Advisers, the first US mutual fund to invest in the Johannesburg stock exchanges. As the Vice Chairman of Electronic Ink, a digital design firm, he led the firm's effort with UK investment banks and is now a senior adviser to Liminal Capital a west coast hedge fund that uses machine learning in the investment process and The Satell Institute, a think tank on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Mr. Franklin has served as Chairman of Academy Funds Trust—a complex of traditional mutual and exchange traded funds, corporate director of Right Management (NYSE), and the regional Advisory Board of Bank of America. He is presently a board director of Dynamis Pharmaceuticals, a bio-science company.

He co-founded with Lord Peter Walker the City Fellows Program to bridge the opportunity gap with US minority professionals by providing a global work experience with British investment banks. Mr. Franklin has facilitated business between the US and UK by leading senior level conferences.

His non-profit interest includes serving as Chair of The Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, Chair of the Investment Committee of The Philadelphia Foundation, CEO of International House and sponsoring a program to send inner city high school students for one week summer tours to London.

Educated at Lincoln University (PA) Mr. Franklin was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Oxford University where he recently received The Distinguished Alumni Award and was elected an Hon. Fellow of Balliol College. In 1998 he was appointed the Honorary British Consul in Philadelphia and in 2002 was bestowed the Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for services to British business. Mr. Franklin lives in Philadelphia, PA. USA.

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## About NatWest

A relationship bank for a digital world. We champion potential; breaking down barriers and building financial confidence so the 19 million people, families and businesses we serve in communities throughout the UK and Ireland can rebuild and thrive. If our customers succeed, so will we.

## Notes to editors

- NatWest Group's Ethnicity Advisory Council, originally formed in 2017 and relaunched this year, will support the bank in delivering their commitments and targets, helping to champion potential and remove barriers faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic colleagues, customers and communities.
- The Ethnicity Advisory Council aims to guide and support ethnicity and inclusion strategy. The council is made up of diversity & inclusion leaders and specialists from across different industries including journalism, business and education, the Council members will draw on their expertise and experience to provide critical challenge, guidance and direction on the bank's inclusion plans, specifically around ethnicity.
- In October 2020 our Racial Equality Taskforce published a report, *Banking on Racial Equality: A Roadmap for Positive Change*, which set out ten commitments and a new target from NatWest Group designed to make meaningful, positive change for our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic colleagues, customers and communities.

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Links: [Our commitments to racial equality](#) | [NatWest Group launches Ethnicity Advisory Council](#)