

Press Release

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Sesame Bankhall Group appoints new Chief Executive Officer

Sesame Bankhall Group (SBG) today announces it has appointed Richard Harrison as Chief Executive Officer, subject to FCA approval.

Bringing more than 20 years' financial services leadership experience, Richard will join SBG from Wesleyan Assurance Society, where he is currently Chief Distribution Officer and has responsibility for financial advice, general insurance, and distribution across its five businesses. With a focus on customer-centric business growth, Richard also leads the delivery of marketing and digital activity for the Society. Prior to Wesleyan, Richard was Head of Network and Premier at HSBC UK, where he was responsible for more than 7,000 people and 520 branches.

Richard joins SBG on 2 January 2024, at which point current Interim Chief Executive Officer John Cowan will resume his role as Chair of the SBG Board.

Commenting on the appointment, **John Cowan, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Sesame Bankhall Group** said: "Sesame Bankhall Group exists to support advisers in building quality businesses that deliver the best outcomes for their clients. Our focus has been on finding a dynamic, driven, and ambitious CEO who will lead the Group for the long-term benefit of the adviser community we support.

"Richard has a great track record of helping businesses to evolve and grow, through clear strategies and successful partnerships - with employees, advisers, and customers always at the very heart of propositions. With a breadth of experience across all areas of financial services, it's clear that he is the ideal person to help drive and deliver our future plans and established business strategy, alongside our experienced management team.

"Richard enthusiastically shares our purpose and future vision. I very much look forward to working closely with him as together we help SBG and its members to thrive and grow."

Richard Harrison added: “Having started out working for an IFA, I’ve learned first-hand the value of quality financial advice and the positive impact it can have on people’s lives. Through its three market-leading brands, SBG is a strong business with a fantastic team in place that’s been at the forefront of adviser support for many years. I share their drive and ambition to deliver customer-focused growth for advisers and the business. I am relishing the opportunity to work with the team to help shape and deliver its next phase of development.”

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Further media enquiries

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About Sesame Bankhall Group

Sesame Bankhall Group (SBG) brings together Sesame Network, Bankhall, and PMS Mortgage Club, reaching over 10,000 professional financial advisers.

- Sesame is one of the UK’s leading appointed representative (AR) networks.
- Bankhall is a market-leading support services business for firms that are directly regulated by the FCA.
- PMS operates one of the UK’s largest mortgage clubs for mortgage brokers who are directly regulated by the FCA.

Services provided include compliance and regulatory support, access to one of the UK’s most comprehensive training and development programmes, in-depth product research, preferential PI terms and access to market-leading technology to enable advisers to write business more efficiently.