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Biography of  
**Sir John Armitt, CBE FREng FICE**  
Chairman  
Olympic Delivery Authority



Sir John Armitt was appointed Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority on 1 September 2007. Sir John was previously Chief Executive of Network Rail from October 2002 and Chief Executive of Railtrack plc from December 2001. He has extensive experience in the building, civil engineering and industrial construction markets.

Sir John is a civil engineer and joined John Laing in 1966 as a graduate engineer. During the next 27 years he worked on major construction projects in the UK and overseas, spending the last seven as Chairman of Laing International and Civil Engineering Divisions.

From 1993 to 1997 he was Chief Executive of Union Railways, the company responsible for the development of the high speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link. In 1997 he went back to construction as Chief Executive of Costain, a position he held until 2001 when he joined Railtrack just after it had been put into administration.

Sir John is also Chairman of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, a Non-Executive Director of the Berkeley Group and an Advisory Board member of PWC.

Sir John received a Knighthood in the 2012 New Year Honours List for his services to engineering and construction. He also has been awarded the CBE in 1996 for his contribution to the rail industry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Institution of Civil Engineers. Sir John has received honorary doctorates from the universities of Portsmouth, Birmingham, Reading and Warwick.



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