

**FORMER TALKTALK CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIDO HARDING AND  
FORMER GCHQ DIRECTOR ROBERT HANNIGAN ANNOUNCED AS  
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT INFOSECURITY EUROPE 2018**

***Building Tomorrow's Cybersecurity Today***

**News for release, London, 23 March 2018:** Infosecurity Europe, the region's number one information security event, has announced Baroness Dido Harding and Robert Hannigan will deliver opening keynotes at this year's event, which takes place at Olympia, London, 5-7 June, speaking on 5 and 7 June respectively.

**Baroness Harding**, Chair of NHS Improvement, will give a talk titled - *View from the Board: A CEO's Perspective on Cybersecurity*, in which she will draw on her seven years as Chief Executive of TalkTalk PLC during which she led the company through one Britain's most high-profile cyber-attacks. She will explore what a CEO really needs from the information security function, how to promote a security culture across the enterprise and how, in the event of a breach, to work with the CEO to minimise impact and protect the reputation of the organisation.

**Baroness Dido Harding said:** "Technology is accelerating at an extraordinary rate across all aspects of our society and as cyber-attacks get ever more frequent and sophisticated, the information security community faces huge challenges ahead. I am very much looking forward to presenting Infosecurity Europe's opening keynote to an audience that is striving to be one step ahead of the cyber adversary to keep our world a safer place."

As former Director GCHQ, the UK government's largest intelligence and cyber agency, **Robert Hannigan** has a long history of involvement in cybersecurity and technology, having drawn up the UK's first Cybersecurity Strategy and outlined the government's ambition of making the UK 'the safest place to live and do business online'. In his talk, *Weaponising the Web: Nation-State Hacking & What it Means for Enterprise Cybersecurity*, Robert will discuss the reality of alleged nation-state sponsored cybercrime emanating from countries such as Russia and North Korea, the risk to different types of organisations and how to mitigate that risk.

**Robert Hannigan said:** "Nation-state sponsored cyber-attacks are a daily reality for organisations not just in the UK but globally. In particular, countries around the world are seeking opportunities to exploit increasingly technologically-integrated Western infrastructure. I look forward to sharing my

experience with the Infosecurity Europe audience about the cyber threats posed by nation-states and how to prevent and defend against them successfully.”

**Victoria Windsor, Content Manager, Infosecurity Europe, said:** “Baroness Harding’s perspective on the crucial issue of how to engage senior leaders in cybersecurity will be a fascinating start to our Keynote Stage programme. Few people can claim to be as knowledgeable about nation-state hacking as Robert Hannigan, and I’m sure his talk will really resonate with our audience. I’m delighted to be welcoming two speakers with such different, but equally insightful, perspectives to the Keynote Stage this year.”

Reflecting the need for the information security community to get one step ahead of the cyber adversary, the Keynote Stage will address the challenges of building strong cybersecurity strategies and tactics to protect an organisation’s critical information assets as the world around transforms. The theme of this year’s Infosecurity Europe is **Building Tomorrow’s Cybersecurity Today**.

### **EVENT INFORMATION**

Both events will take place at Infosecurity Europe, Keynote Stage, Olympia Conference Centre:

#### **Tuesday 5 June, 10.00-10.50**

*View from the Board: A CEO’s Perspective on Cybersecurity*

Baroness Dido Harding will explore how chief executives can work with information security personnel to reduce and mitigate cyber-attacks and establish robust procedures to deal with any breaches.

#### **Thursday 7 June, 10.00-10.50**

*Weaponising the Web: Nation-State Hacking & What it Means for Enterprise Cybersecurity*

During this presentation Robert Hannigan will discuss the risk that nation-state sponsored cybercrime poses to different types of organisations, and how to mitigate that risk.

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### **PRESS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Infosecurity Europe takes place at Olympia, London 5-7 June 2018.

To apply for an Infosecurity Europe press pass, please visit: [https://reedexhibitions.circdata-solutions.co.uk/RFG/publish/InfoSec2018\\_Press/](https://reedexhibitions.circdata-solutions.co.uk/RFG/publish/InfoSec2018_Press/)

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Dido Harding**

Dido Harding began her career as a consultant with McKinsey before embarking on a long career in retail. She held senior positions with Thomas Cook, Woolworths and Tesco, and was Sainsbury's Convenience Director.

Dido Harding spent seven years as Chief Executive of TalkTalk PLC, Britain's challenger telecoms company. She oversaw the transformation of the company's customer service following the demerger from Carphone Warehouse, turning Britain's most complained about telecoms operator into an award-winning provider. She led the regulatory, political and media campaign for greater competition in the sector, leading to the eventual break-up of BT in 2017. She also led TalkTalk through one of Britain's most high-profile cyber-attacks, being praised by a Parliamentary Committee for her transparent and strong crisis leadership.

In October 2017 it was announced that Dido Harding was to become the new chair of NHS Improvement. She was appointed as a non-executive director on The Court of The Bank of England in July 2014. She has also served on the boards of The British Land Company PLC and Cheltenham Racecourse. In August 2014, Dido Harding became a Conservative Life Peer and served on David Cameron's Business Advisory Group, advising the Prime Minister and Chancellor on business and economic policy.

As one of Britain's most high profile digital leaders, Dido Harding is a regulator commentator on what the digital revolution means for businesses and society and how Britain can become the world's most inclusive, successful digital economy.

#### **About Robert Hannigan**

Robert Hannigan was Director of GCHQ, the UK government's largest intelligence and cyber agency, from 2014-17. Hannigan has a long history of involvement in cyber security and technology, having drawn up the UK's first Cyber Security Strategy and outlined the government's ambition of making the UK 'the safest place to live and do business online'. He set up the UK's National Cyber Security Centre as part of GCHQ, which was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth in 2017, and launched the active cyber defence programme for the UK in 2016. He was responsible with the military for the UK's offensive cyber programme.

Hannigan strongly promoted technical skills in his leadership team and his term as Director saw the biggest internal transformation of GCHQ since the end of the Cold War. Hannigan served as Security Adviser to the UK Prime Minister from 2007-10, giving advice on counter terrorism and intelligence matters. As Head of Intelligence, Security and Resilience in the UK Government's Cabinet Office, he was responsible for the funding and oversight of the three UK intelligence agencies. For nearly ten years Hannigan lived in Belfast and worked on the Northern Ireland Peace Process as Tony Blair's principal civil service adviser. He was responsible for negotiations with the political parties and paramilitaries, as well as liaison with the US, Irish and other Governments. He is the only civil servant credited with great creativity in Tony Blair's autobiography.

He has a particular interest in Bletchley Park, where he is a Trustee, its codebreaking and the birth of computing. He caused international controversy by criticising social media companies on his first day in office at GCHQ but has also spoken at MIT in defence of strong encryption. Hannigan is widely credited with opening up the secret world of GCHQ and explaining its work, inviting the media in for the first time. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology and a member of the Ministry of Defence Innovation Advisory Panel with Ron Dennis and Tim Peake. He advises BlueVoyant LLC and McKinsey & Co.

#### **About Infosecurity Europe**

Strategically held annually in London, Europe's centre for technology start-up businesses, Infosecurity Europe is Europe's largest and most comprehensive Information Security event. Featuring numerous analysts, policy experts, journalists and over 400 exhibitors, Infosecurity Europe presents an invaluable business platform, as well as staging the world's largest complimentary conference programme containing 240+ free to attend conference sessions which have been accredited by leading industry associations (ISC)<sup>2</sup> and ISACA since 2012. The event attracts over 19,500 unique information security industry professionals attending from every segment of the industry and presents the most important date in the calendar for information security professionals across Europe. [#infosec18](http://www.infosecurityeurope.com)

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