

Role
Trustee and Deputy Chair of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Chair of the Committee for Northern Ireland
Mukesh Sharma was born in England and raised in Northern Ireland within the Indian community. He has a breadth of experience in business growth and acquisition, organisational change, partnership working and advocacy in developing international partnerships.

Mukesh was in the travel, tourism and airline industry from 1982 to 2016. He has worked in the UK and abroad, heading up a number of major companies during this time.

In 2016, Mukesh was commissioned as Deputy Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast. He received an Outstanding Contribution Award at the Aer Lingus Viscount Awards in May 2016 for his significant contribution to the local economy and was awarded an MBE in 2016 for services to the travel industry in Northern Ireland.

He has led many initiatives across Northern Ireland to promote the arts, community cohesion and the prevention of racism, sectarianism and hate crime.

Mukesh serves as a board member of a number of charities including ArtsEkta and Moving on Music. He is a committee member of The King’s Trust Northern Ireland and chair of the Northern Ireland board for Barnardos. Since 2006 he has been a festival director of the Belfast Mela, the largest multi-cultural event of its kind on the island of Ireland.

From 2016 to 2020, Mukesh served on the Northern Ireland Executive Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition. The commission, made up of political and non-political representatives, undertook a programme of work to shape a Northern Ireland free from segregation and division. The commission's work ended in 2020 with the submission of a report to the First and Deputy First Minister.

From 2021 to 2023, Mukesh served on The Heritage Advisory Board established by the Secretary of State for DCMS to develop guidance on contested heritage. He was awarded an OBE in 2026 for services to heritage.

He currently holds the position of vice chair on the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Mukesh was appointed Chair of the Northern Ireland Committee, and joined the Board as the Northern Ireland Trustee, in August 2020.