

Samantha Beckett

LYING FEMINIST OF THE MONTH



[J4MB](#) presents the October 2015 **Lying Feminist of the Month** award to Samantha Beckett – Director General, Economics & Markets, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS). Since 2012 [Campaign for Merit in Business](#) (C4MB) has been pointing politicians, civil servants, and others, to evidence of a causal link between increasing female representation on boards and corporate financial *decline* – yet the government continues to force FTSE100 companies into appointing more women onto their boards. In 2012 Mike Buchanan gave evidence to a House of Commons inquiry – the video of his appearance is [here](#) – with details of five longitudinal studies, all of them demonstrating the link. The C4MB briefing paper with links to the studies is [here](#).

A link to Mike Buchanan's correspondence with DBIS is [here](#). Ms Beckett wrote:

In our response we also acknowledged that the academic literature is mixed in findings regarding the impact of gender diversity on corporate performance – while we accept that some studies have found evidence to support the hypothesis that an increase in gender diversity can be associated with a reduction in performance, *there are other studies that have shown the opposite*. [my emphasis]

On 17.9.15 Mike Buchanan publicly challenged Ms Beckett – the letter is [here](#):

I challenge you to inform me of the longitudinal studies you've claimed exist 'that have shown the opposite' by 5pm on 2 October. Please email me at mike@j4mb.org.uk.

Ms Beckett failed to respond by the deadline, and she is a worthy winner of this award. The long list of people C4MB has challenged on the topic of gender diversity on corporate boards is [here](#).