

Britain's top 100 companies are still struggling to reach the targets set in 2016 to improve ethnic diversity at senior level. The Parker report published today showed that the number of black people at the top of Britain's largest listed FTSE 100 companies has fallen to zero. That means there are no black Chairs, Chief Executives or Finance Chiefs for the first time in the last six years – that's according to Green Park Consultancy who carried out the research. Fewer than one in ten leaders at present comes from a minority background - a fall in black representation from 1.4% down to 0.9%. The Parker report is a government-backed yearly review aimed at improving ethnic diversity on boards of UK listed businesses and to encourage future leaders. The review gave FTSE 100 firms four years to appoint at least one non-white board level director. A similar target was set for top 250 UK companies, too. Findings today reflect that from 297 chairmen and women in the FTSE 100, just ten are from an ethnic minority background. The report also showed that Britain's biggest companies are unlikely to hit a government-backed target of employing at least one director from an ethnic minority by the end of 2021. A further concern - a drop in the number of future senior leaders who report into the top 20 company boards.