

John Sawers is executive chairman of Newbridge Advisory, a firm he founded in 2019 to advise corporate leaders on geopolitics and political risk.

Sawers has thirty-six years of experience in diplomacy and intelligence, culminating in five years as chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). As MI6 chief, he took part in the UK National Security Council and the Joint Intelligence Committee, contributing to the strategies and policy decisions on how to promote and protect British interests around the world. He led the service through a period of international political upheaval and high terrorist threat, including against the 2012 London Olympics. He also modernized the way the service works and created a more open approach to public accountability.

Prior to leading MI6, Sawers was the United Kingdom's ambassador to the United Nations, political director of the foreign office, special representative in Iraq, ambassador to Egypt, and foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair. In his earlier career, Sawers worked overseas in South Africa, Syria, the United States, and Yemen, and at home was involved in policy on the European Union, Russia, and the Middle East.

Since leaving public service, Sawers has advised private sector leaders on geopolitics and political risk through Newbridge Advisory. He was a nonexecutive director of BP from 2015 to 2024.

Sawers studied at the universities of Nottingham, St. Andrews, and Harvard. In addition to his corporate work, he has pro bono roles with King's College London, the University of Nottingham, the Council on Foreign Relations, Chatham House, the European Council on Foreign Relations, the Royal United Services Institute and the Ditchley Foundation.