Stephanie Harrison, Director of Internal Audit at the University of Surrey, has been appointed as the Director of Risk and Assurance for the National Institutions of the Church of England.

In her new role Stephanie will be responsible for ensuring an effective risk management culture exists across the National Church Institutions, supported by robust assurance processes including internal audit.

In her three years at the University of Surrey, Stephanie developed their internal audit strategy, charter and plan, implemented internal audit management software and data analytics, and promoted the concept of live audit assurance, with internal audit now playing a key role on major change programme boards at the university. She also managed the university’s compliance risk register development and ethical conduct processes.

Stephanie has previously held audit roles at organisations including the Royal Horticultural Society, Thames Water and Northern Rail Ltd.

John Ball, Chief Executive of the Pensions Board, said: “I am delighted to welcome Stephanie as Director of Risk and Assurance. It is an important role, working across the National Church Institutions, supporting their trustee boards and the executive teams in risk management, assurance and good governance. Stephanie is well-placed, with her wealth of experience from across the private, public and charity sectors, to take our work forward in this key area.”

Stephanie said, “I feel delighted and privileged to be joining the National Church Institutions and leading in the area of risk and assurance. I am passionate about the benefits that good risk management brings to organisations and am looking forward to working with everyone to enhance existing processes and explore new opportunities.”

Stephanie commences her role on 2 March and will be based in Church House, Westminster.