

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Legal Services Board appoints new Member to the Legal Services Consumer Panel

The Legal Services Board (LSB) - the independent body responsible for overseeing the regulation of lawyers in England and Wales - has today announced the appointment of Frances Harrison as Member of the Legal Services Consumer Panel ('the Consumer Panel').

Frances has been appointed for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 March 2016. The vacancy on the Consumer Panel arose as a result of the appointment of former Panel Member Elisabeth Davies as interim then permanent Chair, following the resignation of former Chair Baroness Hayter.

LSB Chairman, David Edmonds said:

"I am delighted that Frances will be joining the Consumer Panel. The Panel, under Elisabeth Davies's leadership, plays a unique and important role in making sure the interests of consumers are put right at the heart of the legal services sector.

They've set themselves a challenging work programme ahead and Frances's contribution will be vital."

Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel, Elisabeth Davies, said:

"It's a privilege to have Frances join the Panel.

We're now in a period of rapid policy change combined with economic uncertainty and changes to the consumer landscape. This is set to continue, raising significant issues for consumers of legal services.

I know that Frances's appointment and the range of consumer experience she brings will help us continue to respond to these changes, building on what the Panel has already achieved and maximising our impact on behalf of consumers."

ENDS

For further information, please contact Corporate Director [Julie Myers](#) on 0207 271 0059.

Notes for editors:

1. Frances Harrison is a specialist in consumer affairs. In 2011 she was appointed to the Financial Services Consumer Panel. She also sits on the Finance and Leasing Association's Code of Practice Monitoring Group as well as the Registry Trust's Consumer Panel.

In addition to paid employment, Frances is a Vice Chair of Brighton and Hove Citizens Advice Bureau and a policy consultant to the Prince's Trust. She was Head of Policy Research and Development at the National Consumer Council during the period 1999 - 2003, and has extensive experience in policy analysis with a number of national bodies.

2. The appointment process was not governed by the OCPA Code, but was conducted in accordance with its principles. The recruitment panel was chaired by a Legal Services Board Member, and members comprised the Chair of the Consumer Panel, a further Legal Services Board Member and an independent member.
3. Section 8(2) of Part 2 of the Legal Services Act 2007 allows for Legal Services Board, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor, to make appointments to the Legal Services Consumer Panel.
4. Details of the other members of the Consumer Panel and their biographies can be found on the Panel's [website](#).
5. Details of the Consumer Panel's work plan for 2012/13 can be found [here](#).