

Monday, 2 December 2013

## Preferred candidate for OLC Chairman announced

David Edmonds, Chairman of the Legal Services Board (LSB), has today announced that Stephen Green has been selected as the LSB's preferred candidate to the post of Chairman of the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC) after an open competition.

Mr Green, whose selection has also been approved by the Lord Chancellor, will appear before the Justice Select Committee for pre-appointment scrutiny in due course. Mr Green would succeed Elizabeth France, the OLC's inaugural Chair, whose second term of office ends on 31 March 2014.

Chairman of the Legal Services Board, **David Edmonds** said:

*"Steve Green is a committed advocate of the rights of consumers. He has a great understanding of the work of the legal services market place and has strong experience in running organisations.*

*Pending the report of the Justice Select Committee, I know Steve will be looking forward to getting to grips with his new role and building on the excellent foundations built by Liz France and her team in establishing the Legal Ombudsman.*

*Steve has been a member of the LSB since its inception but would of course leave that role on appointment".*

ENDS

## Notes for editors:

1. The Legal Services Act 2007 (the Act) requires the Legal Services Board (LSB) to appoint the Chair and Members of the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC) [Schedule 15 of the Act]. The appointment of Chairman of the OLC requires the approval of the Lord Chancellor.
2. The OLC is responsible for establishing and administering the Legal Ombudsman for England and Wales – the independent and impartial complaints resolution body for the legal sector.
3. The OLC Chairman must be a lay person.
4. Pre-appointment hearings enable select committees to take evidence from preferred candidates for key public appointments. They take place before an appointment is confirmed, but after the selection process has taken place. Details of the process can be found [here](#).
5. Steve Green is currently a member of the LSB, a position he will step down from if appointed as OLC Chairman.
6. Steve Green was a police officer for 30 years, retiring as Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police in 2008. A brief biography can be found [here](#).
7. The Act created the LSB as a new regulator with responsibility for overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime became active on 1 January 2010.
8. The LSB oversees eight approved regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers. The approved regulators, designated under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2007 Act, are the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Master of the Faculties, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Costs Lawyers.
9. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as approved regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
10. As at 1 April 2013, the legal profession comprised 126,624 solicitors, 15,335 barristers, 7,947 chartered legal executives and 4,184 other individuals operating in other areas of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £25.49 billion per annum (total turnover in 2010).
11. The Legal Ombudsman for England and Wales, as set up by the Office for Legal Complaints (its Board), is independent and impartial. This means that when the service receives a complaint, it will look at the facts in each case and weigh-up both sides of the story. The Ombudsman is not a consumer champion or part of the legal profession, and is also independent of Government. There is no cost to the taxpayer.
12. During the past year, the Ombudsman received just over 71,000 contacts, accepted 8,500 complaints for investigation and resolved a total of 7,600 cases.