

PREFERRED CANDIDATE FOR THE ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE OFFICE FOR LEGAL COMPLAINTS CHAIR ANNOUNCED

David Edmonds, Chairman of the Legal Services Board, announced today that Elizabeth France was the LSB's choice for the position of Chair of the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC).

Mrs. France, whose selection has also been approved by the Lord Chancellor, will appear before the Justice Select Committee on 21 October as the preferred candidate for the position.

David Edmonds said

'Elizabeth has an outstanding record of achievement in consumer protection and redress and would offer the OLC considerable insight and experience. Subject to the Select Committee's approval of Elizabeth's appointment, I look forward to working with her in driving forward the implementation of the OLC and as an immediate priority appointing the rest of the OLC Board members.'

Notes for editors

1. Elizabeth France has been the Chief Ombudsman and Chief Executive of the Ombudsman Services LTD (TOSL) since October 2002.
2. Mrs France worked from the inception of TOSL bring to its current highly regarded position providing Ombudsman services for telecoms, energy, chartered surveying and estate agency.
3. She was previously the Information Commissioner for 8 years, prior to which her career had been as a civil servant in the Home Office.
4. The Office for Legal Complaints will administer an ombudsman scheme that will deal with all consumer complaints about legal services. The current timetable will see the OLC implemented by the end of 2010.
5. As set out in the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper, in order to increase the Parliamentary scrutiny for certain positions that play a significant role in protecting the public's rights the appointment of the Chair will be subject to a pre-appointment hearing before the Justice Select Committee..