

Friday, 21 March 2014

Chairman of the Legal Services Board

The Legal Services Board (LSB) welcomes the appointment of **Sir Michael Pitt** as the Chairman designate of the LSB. He will succeed **David Edmonds CBE** whose second term as Chairman comes to an end on 30 April 2014.

Sir Michael, whose appointment has been announced today by the **Lord Chancellor** in consultation with the **Lord Chief Justice**, will become Chairman on 1 May 2014.

Lord Chancellor, **Chris Grayling** said:

*"I am pleased to announce **Sir Michael Pitt** as the new Chair of the Legal Services Board, and congratulate him on his appointment. He brings with him experience which will be invaluable to the LSB as it moves forward in its important work overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. I wish him good luck in his new role."*

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

*"I am delighted to welcome **Michael** as my successor as Chairman of the Legal Services Board. He will take over at a exciting, interesting and challenging time for legal services in England and Wales. He will lead an organisation of committed proponents of competition, market liberalisation, and putting the consumer interest at the heart of regulation. I wish him well."*

Incoming Chair of the Legal Services Board, **Sir Michael Pitt** said:

*"It is both an honour and a privilege to have been nominated as the new Chairman of the Legal Services Board. I know that in succeeding **David Edmonds** I am succeeding an outstanding Chairman.*

I also know that I will take over at a key point in the development of the legal services market and its regulation. I look forward to the challenge of continuing to drive forward the positive changes for consumers and new opportunities for providers which the Act has initiated in legal services in England and Wales."

ENDS

For more information please contact the LSB's Communications Manager [Vincent McGovern](#) on 020 7271 0068 / 0795 622 6562.

Notes for editors:

1. **Sir Michael Pitt** will become the new Chair of the Legal Services Board on 01 May 2014 for an initial three year appointment. The announcement by the Ministry of Justice can be found [here](#).
2. Sir Michael is currently the Chair of the [Planning Inspectorate](#) a position he will step down from on 30 April.

He graduated from University College London with a first class honours degree in Engineering. During the first half of his career he was involved in the planning, design and construction of transport and other infrastructure in this country and abroad, working for the private and public sectors. He has held Directorships in the country's largest local authorities. From 1990 to 2005 he was Chief Executive of Cheshire and Kent County Councils.

More recently, he has worked on a wide range of consultancy assignments, including a year-long appointment as independent Chair of the Government's review of the 2007 floods. He has also been Chair of a number of other organisations including NHS South West, two companies and a charity. He continues as Chair and Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate until he takes up his new appointment as Chair of the Legal Services Board.

3. [Schedule 1](#) of the Legal Services Act states that the Chairman of the Legal Services Board must be a lay person.
4. This appointment was made in accordance with the [Code of Practice](#) of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
5. The Legal Services Act 2007 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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).