

30 June 2004

Elizabeth Blackburn QC is appointed to the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites

Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Media and Heritage, announced today that Elizabeth Blackburn QC has been appointed as a Member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. The term of appointment will run from 7 July 2004 to 6 July 2008.

Biographical notes:

Elizabeth Blackburn QC has been in practice as a specialist advocate and adviser at the Commercial and Admiralty Bar since 1980, and took silk in 1998. Her range of work covers shipping and the international carriage of goods; international trade and associated finance; surety, guarantee and performance bonds, marine insurance, P & I Club issues, marine pollution; collision, salvage and towage disputes; damage to marine engines and marine/off shore installations, fatal maritime accidents, maritime limitation of liability, maritime International Law and Treaty Obligations; conflict of laws and jurisdictional disputes. She is recommended as a Shipping Silk in the Legal 500, and is a Member of the Executive Committee of the British Maritime Law Association. In addition, she is a Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies, and is a member of the Commercial Bar Association, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and the British Environmental Association. She has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.

Note to Editors:

The Advisory Committee was set up to advise Ministers following the passing of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Section 1 of the 1973 Act empowers the Secretary of State to designate, by order, the site of what is, or may prove to be, the wreck of a vessel which should be protected from unauthorised interference because of its historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such a designation makes it an offence to tamper with, damage, or remove any part of the wreck, its contents or its former contents. Activities on the wreck site may only be carried out under licence granted by the Secretary of State.

All new appointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.