

August 2008

The National Gallery: Appointment of Caroline Thomson to Board of Trustees

The Prime Minister has appointed **Caroline Thomson** as a Trustee of The National Gallery. Her term of appointment will be four years from 11 August 2008.

Miss Thomson is Chief Operating Officer at the BBC, with responsibility for policy, strategy and major infrastructure projects. She joined the BBC in 1995 as Deputy Managing Director of the World Service, was appointed Director of Policy in 2000 and began her current role in 2006. Between 1984 and 1995 she was an award-winning Commissioning Editor, and then Head of Corporate Affairs, at Channel 4 Television. This followed a variety of roles in BBC Radio and Television. She is a Non-executive Director of Digital UK Ltd and The Pensions Regulator, and a Trustee of the BBC Pension Fund.

Background

1. The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of European painting in the world. It contains paintings from the 13th to the early 20th centuries, representing all the major European schools of painting with examples of all the major artists' work. These pictures belong to the public and entrance to see them is free. Its trustees are not remunerated.
2. The appointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Miss Thomson has declared no political activity in the last five years.