

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture has appointed **Debjani Chatterjee** to the Public Lending Right Advisory Committee. Her term of appointment will run from 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2010.

Debjani Chatterjee is an award-winning British South Asian writer, editor and community publisher. Born in India, she has also lived in Japan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Egypt, and now lives in Britain. She writes for both children and adults, and has had 45 books of prose and poetry published, including bi-lingual books and work in translation. As an award-winning poet, her work has appeared in major anthologies and been broadcast on radio and TV. She is the founder and director of Sahitya Press which promotes South Asian literature. Debjani has been an Arts Council of England Literature Adviser and Chair of its Translations Panel. She is also a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at York St. John University. As a registered carer and patron of Survivors Poetry, she has a strong interest in supporting arts for the disabled. Sheffield Hallam University awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2002 for her outstanding contribution to literature.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Public Lending Right Advisory Committee is a non-statutory committee, appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which advises the Registrar of Public Lending Right and DCMS Ministers on the operation of the PLR scheme. The scheme gives effect to the PLR Act (1979) by which authors have a legal right to receive payment for the free lending out of their books by public libraries.
2. The Committee has no executive or financial responsibility for the management of the PLR scheme. Its role is to provide advice on areas such as promoting awareness of PLR among authors, future development of the scheme's coverage, changes to the scheme to deal with anomalies or unfairness, relations with libraries, and dealings with other national PLR schemes.
3. This appointment has 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.