



## **The Prime Minister Appoints Sir John Tusa as Chairman of the Victoria And Albert Museum**

The Prime Minister has appointed Sir John Tusa as Chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum with effect from 1 November 2007 for a period of 4 years.

### **Biographical Details**

Sir John Tusa is currently Managing Director of the Barbican Centre and was previously Managing Director of BBC World Service. Sir John has wide experience of board membership on major arts institutions. He has been Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Government Art Collection, Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, trustee of the Design Museum and Deputy Chair of the English National Opera. He is Chair of the Wigmore Hall Trustees and Vice Chair of the Trustees of the British Museum. He has spoken at numerous conferences and seminars on the arts in the UK and internationally and is a regular broadcaster on arts and cultural matters. Sir John has more than 40 years experience of journalism and has written two books of essays on the arts, "Art Matters" and "Engaged with the Arts; Writings from the frontline". He was previously a presenter on Newsnight and has also fronted the BBC1 one o'clock news. He was knighted in The Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2003.

Sir John Tusa has not carried out any political activity in the last five years. However, he is Independent Chair of the Arts Policy Task Force, reporting to David Cameron in October 2007, when he will stand down.

Tessa Jowell said:

"Sir John Tusa has played an important and distinguished role in the cultural life of this country for a very long time. I am delighted that the V&A, one of our most successful national museums, will now be able to benefit from his experience, leadership and insight."

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Victoria and Albert Museum is the UK's National Museum of Art and Design and the greatest Museum of art and design in the world. It comprises the V&A in South Kensington, the V&A Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green and archives and study collections at Blythe House in Olympia. The collections of 2.3 million objects (well over 4 million separate items) span over 3,000 years and many different cultures and countries, and incorporate National Collections for 15 subject areas. The purpose of the V&A is to enrich people's lives by promoting the practice of design and increasing knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the designed world.

2. The current membership of the Board is: Chairman Paula Ridley OBE JP DL LLD MA Hon FRIBA, Mr Edwin Davies OBE, Mr Rob Dickins CBE, Professor Sir Christopher Frayling, Mrs Jane Gordon Clark, Ms Betty Jackson MBE, Professor Lisa Jardine CBE, Mr Rick Mather, Mr Peter Rogers CBE, Mr Paul Ruddock, The Rt Hon Sir Timothy Sainsbury, Dame Marjorie Scardino DBE and Mr Samir Shah OBE.
3. The post is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.
4. The appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appoints are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.