

April 2005

Duncan O'Donnell is appointed to the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites

Andrew McIntosh announced today that Duncan O'Donnell has been appointed as Law Enforcement Advisor Member on the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. His term of appointment will run from 21 March 2005 to 20 March 2009.

Biographical notes

Duncan O'Donnell is a Barrister Tenant in the Chambers of Michael Hubbard QC, where his practice covers serious criminal offences, including organised crime, drug offences and fraud (1995 to date). Prior to his legal pupillages, he worked at Bonham Fine Art auctioneers where he started as Assistant Cataloguer in its Collectors' Department, dealing with Antiquities and Tribal Art, and then became the specialist in Militaria (1988 to 1993). Mr O'Donnell has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

Background

The Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites (ACHWS) 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 a protected wreck site may only be carried out under licence granted by the Secretary of State.

ACHWS members do not receive a salary. However, they receive any travel expenses incurred by their attendance at meetings.

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.