

February 2006

Janis Kong OBE appointed to the board of VisitBritain

James Purnell, Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism, announces today the appointment of Janis Kong OBE to the board of VisitBritain. Her term of appointment will run for four years from 13 February 2006.

Biographical notes:

Janis Kong is currently Chairman of Heathrow Airport and of Heathrow Express, and an Executive Director on the BAA Board, retiring from these roles on 1 March 2006. She was previously Managing Director of Gatwick Airport, where she led the airport's groundbreaking partnership approach to community and stakeholder consultation. Mrs Kong is also a Non-executive Director of the Royal Bank of Scotland and of Portmeirion Holdings plc, a ceramics manufacturer based in Stoke-on-Trent. She was a board member of the South East England Regional Development Agency until Dec 2004. She has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

Note for editors:

VisitBritain was created on 1 April 2003 and was formed by the merger of functions of the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourism Council. Its function is to build the value of tourism by creating world-class destination brands and marketing campaigns.

Board members are appointed by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government. There is a remuneration of £8680 per annum for the role. The time commitment is expected to be two days per month on average.

The appointments process was carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

The current VisitBritain board members are:

Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge (Chair)
Kumar Muthalagappan
Moir Lockhead OBE
Alan Parker

Penelope, Viscountess Cobham (Dep Chair)
Philip Evans
Peter Lederer OBE
Hugh Taylor

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