

October 2008

Arts Council England – North East Regional Chair Reappointment

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture has re-appointed Tom Shakespeare as North East Regional Chair for a second term of four years from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2012.

Biographical Note

Dr Tom Shakespeare began his career in sociology and bioethics, and has published widely in the fields of disability and genetics. As a performer, he has worked in disability arts, live art, theatre and dance. He has also been active as a writer, critic and curator, and his media work includes documentaries for TV and radio. He was founding chair of the children's musical theatre company, Monster Productions. Tom previously served on the board of northern arts and the British Councils Arts Advisory Committee. He is a research fellow at Newcastle University and was a National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) fellow from 2005-2008.

Background

1. Arts Council England develops and promotes the arts across England, acting as an arms length body from the Government. DCMS recently announced an increase in funding for Arts Council England by 3.3% above inflation over the next three years, taking its total grant in aid to £467m in 2010-11. In addition, Arts Council England is expected to have £500m to distribute from the National Lottery between 2009 and 2012. This provides the bedrock of support for the arts in England.
2. The reappointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Reappointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Tom has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.