

## **New Non-Executive Director at OFCOM**

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**Following a recruitment exercise conducted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Government has appointed Lord Norman Blackwell to the Ofcom Board as a Non-Executive Director.**

Lord Blackwell has significant Chairmanship and plc Board level director experience in business, finance, regulation and the Public Sector. He is currently Chairman of the Board at Interserve plc and the Senior Independent Director at Standard Life plc and Segro plc. He is also a Non-Executive Director at the Office of Fair Trading and a Board member of the Centre for Policy Studies. He has previously held Director and Chairman positions at Corporate Services Group plc, Akers Biosciences Inc, SmartStream Technologies and Dixons plc.

From 1995 to 1997 Lord Blackwell was head of then Prime Minister John Major's Policy Unit, where he co-ordinated domestic policy development across Whitehall. He was made a Life Peer in 1997 and remains an active member of the House of Lords with seats on the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and the Finance Bill Select Committee.

Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, said: "Lord Blackwell's knowledge of public policy and strategy, combined with his commercial experience in business and finance will be invaluable in helping Ofcom deliver greater choice and innovation across the communications sector during these challenging economic times."

Culture Secretary, Ben Bradshaw, said:

"Lord Blackwell will bring a wealth of experience to his new role at Ofcom. These are challenging times for the broadcast industry and I am sure his commitment and integrity will help us deliver the changes needed to ensure that we have a dynamic broadcasting market that is fit for the future."

Lord Blackwell will take up his post on 1 September for a period of three years, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Lord David Currie.

### **Notes to editors**

1. Ofcom is the independent regulator for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications and wireless communications services.
2. Under the Office of Communications Act 2002, the non-Executive Director of Ofcom is a public appointment made by jointly by the Secretary of State for Business and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
3. The recruitment process began in April 2009 and was carried out independently of Ministers. It was regulated by Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and, in accordance with the Commissioner's code, involved an Independent Assessor at all stages, including the interview panel. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Lord Blackwell sits as a Conservative Peer in the House of Lords but otherwise he has no formal role in the Conservative Party
4. The Non-Executive Director's appointment is for three years. The remuneration is £42,519 p.a. for up to two days a week.
5. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills will promote open and competitive markets, proportionate regulation, an enterprise and innovation culture, skilled people, thriving universities, life-long learning and world-class science, technology and research.