

October 2010

The National Gallery: Appointment of John Nelson

The Prime Minister has appointed Mr John Nelson as a Trustee of The National Gallery. His term of appointment is the four years from 11 October 2010.

John Nelson is an accountant with a 30-year career at board level in the financial sector, as a Director of Kleinwort Benson (1980-86), Managing Director and then Vice-Chairman of Lazard Brothers (1986-99), and Chairman of Credit Suisse First Boston (Europe) Ltd until 2002. He has held a number of non-executive directorships, and is currently Chairman of Hammerson plc and Deputy Chairman of Kingfisher plc. He is also a Member of the Takeover Panel Appeal Board, a Senior Adviser to Charterhouse Capital Partners LLP, and a Member of the Chairman's Advisory Group at KPMG. Outside the financial world, Mr Nelson has been a Director of Finton House Educational Trust, and a Board Member of English National Opera. He holds no other public appointments.

Background

1. The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of European painting in the world. It contains paintings from the 13th to the early 20th centuries, representing all the major European schools of painting with examples of all the major artists' work. These pictures belong to the public and entrance to see them is free. Its trustees are not remunerated.
2. The appointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity in the last five years (if any declared) to be made public. Mr Nelson has declared no political activity.