

Press Notice

April 2010

Baroness Blackstone appointed as Chair of the British Library

Ben Bradshaw, Culture Secretary, has appointed Baroness Tessa Blackstone as Chair of the board of the British Library. Her term of appointment will run for four years from 1 September 2010.

Biographical Notes

Baroness Tessa Blackstone

Baroness Blackstone took up post as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich in 2004. Formerly Arts Minister (2001-2003) and Minister of State for Education & Employment (1997-2001), Tessa Blackstone was Master of Birkbeck College (1987-97) and Deputy Education Officer of the Inner London Education Authority (1983-86). She has also worked as a policy adviser in the Cabinet Office.

Notes to editors

1. The British Library is one of the greatest research libraries in the world. As it pursues its mission to advance the world's knowledge, the Library is increasingly exploiting the advantages of digital and web technology to offer wider access to its renowned collection. A major programme of strategy development is currently under way to articulate the Library's operating environment in 2020 and to develop a 2020 vision for the British Library.
2. The British Library is currently chaired by Sir Colin Lucas
3. The appointment receives £37,000 per annum in remuneration but board members may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.
4. 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. Baroness Blackstone is a Labour Peer and has canvassed on behalf of the Labour party during the past five years.