

## **November 2012**

### **Appointment of The Rt Hon Lord Ashcroft of Chichester KCMG to the Board of the Imperial War Museum**

The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Michael Ashcroft for the 4 years to 4 November 2016.

#### **Biographical Details**

Lord Ashcroft is a member of the House of Lords, an international businessman, a philanthropist and an author.

An entrepreneur and investor both in the UK and the US, Lord Ashcroft supports a wide range of charities, notably crime prevention and education. He is the Founder and Chairman of Crimestoppers, Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University, Chairman of Trustees of the Ashcroft Technology Academy in south London and an ambassador of SkillForce, the educational charity.

In 2000, he was both knighted and he became a Member of the House of Lords (Lord Ashcroft of Chichester, KCMG).

Between December 2005 and September 2010 he was Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, having already served earlier as Treasurer of the Party from 1998-2001.

In May 2011, Lord Ashcroft was appointed as lead advisor on a government review of military bases on Cyprus. In September 2012, he was appointed a member of the Privy Council and was made the Government's Special Representative for Veterans' Transition, working on support for military personnel making the transition to civilian life.

Lord Ashcroft owns the world's largest collection of Victoria Cross medals (177 such decorations). In November 2010, this collection went on public display for the first time at the Imperial War Museum London in a purpose-built gallery named after him. In 2010, he became a Trustee of the Imperial War Museum Foundation and is also Vice-Patron of the Intelligence Corps Museum in Bedfordshire.

Lord Ashcroft has written seven books on gallantry and politics.

## Background

1. The Imperial War Museum was seeking somebody to increase its Board's business and commercial skills and to help increase the Museum's self-generated funding from commercial revenue, fund-raising and profitability.
2. The IWM branches tell the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War. IWM's unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, IWM tells vivid personal stories and creates powerful physical experiences across its five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. IWM challenges people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.
- 3 IWM's five branches are **IWM London**, its flagship branch; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.
- 4 Summer 2014 will see the launch of the first phase of an ambitious plan to transform **IWM London** with the opening of a new atrium and brand new First World War galleries to mark the centenary of the First World War.
- 5 The post is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.
- 6 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 United Kingdom in the past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Lord Ashcroft has spoken and canvassed for, and is a donor to, the Conservative Party.