

July 2012

The British Library: appointment of a new Part-time Board Member

Ed Vaizey, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, has appointed Dr Robert Black CBE FRSE FRSS FRSA to the Board of the British Library, for terms of four years, starting on 20 June 2012.

Dr Robert Black

Robert Black stepped down as Auditor General for Scotland in July 2012, a post which he had held since 2000. Dr Black was the first Auditor General for Scotland, appointed by HM The Queen under the Scotland Act which brought into being the Scottish Parliament. Previously he was Chief Executive of the Accounts Commission for Scotland. He was a local authority chief executive for 10 years, first with Stirling District Council (1985-90) and then with Tayside Regional Council (1990-1995). His earlier career was in policy planning and research with Strathclyde Regional Council, Glasgow City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

Dr Black was appointed to the British Library Board for his high level of expertise in the area of public administration, accountability governance and also his 'special knowledge of Scotland' as required under the terms of the British Library Act 1972 as amended by the Scotland Act 1998. He serves on the Board's Audit Committee and Investment Committee.

Notes to editors

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the greatest research libraries in the world. Taken together, the scope of its remit, the scale of its operations, the range of its services and the international importance of its collections are without equal. It provides world class information services to the academic, business, research and scientific communities and offers unparalleled access to the world's largest and most comprehensive research collection.

By 2020, the British Library aims to be a leading hub in the global information network, advancing knowledge through its collections, expertise and partnerships, for the benefit of the economy and society and the enrichment of cultural life. The Library's collection has developed over 250 years and exceeds 150 million separate items representing every age of written civilisation and includes books, journals, manuscripts, maps, stamps, music, patents, photographs, newspapers and sound recordings in all written and spoken languages.

Over 4.1 million items are consulted in the Library's Reading Rooms every year, 812,000 visited Library events and exhibitions on 2010/11 and over 10 million people

Visit the British Library website - www.bl.uk.

Board members may claim £9,130 per year for their part-time contribution, in return for approximately two days per month dedicated to the role.

These appointments have been made 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. 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. Dr Black has declared no political activity.