

May 2012

Reappointment of National Gallery Trustee

The Prime Minister has reappointed Ms Caroline Thomson as a Trustee of The National Gallery, for the four years commencing 11 August 2012.

Biographical details

Caroline Thomson was first appointed to The National Gallery in 2008. She has been Chief Operating Officer at the BBC since 2006, with responsibility for the BBC's corporate and operational activities: Policy & Strategy, Marketing, Communications, Legal, Editorial Policy, Business Operations and Technology, Distribution & Archive. She is the Executive Director accountable for the BBC's major infrastructure projects: digital switchover, the move to Salford and the development of the BBC's two main sites in central and west London. Ms Thomson was also responsible for leading the BBC's bid for a successful review of its Charter and working with the Director General to negotiate licence fee settlements in 2007 and 2010. Since the retirement of Mark Byford in March 2011, she also deputises for the Director-General.

Ms Thomson is a Trustee of the BBC Pension Fund, the Royal Television Society, and Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. She is a Member of BAFTA and The Radio Academy, and Honorary Life President of the Prix Italia. She is the Chair of the Ambassadors Group at the charity Tomorrow's People, and is a non-executive director of Digital UK Ltd.

Notes to Editors

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.

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 United Kingdom in the past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Ms Thomson has declared no such political activity.