

January 2012

**Charles Mackay has been re-appointed as Chairman of Historic Royal Palaces.**

Her Majesty The Queen, on the advice of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media & Sport, has approved the reappointment of Charles Mackay as Chairman of Historic Royal Palaces. The term of this appointment will run from 5 May 2012 until 4 May 2015.

**Biographical details**

Charles Mackay has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Historic Royal Palaces since May 2006. He has been re-appointed for a third and final term of three years (three year terms are a requirement of Historic Royal Palaces' Royal Charter.) This third term has been granted on an exceptional basis to enable Mr Mackay to lead Historic Royal Palaces through its prominent developments and roles in 2012 and in the years immediately beyond.

He is a member of the Business Board of the House of Habib, a member of the Advisory Council of INSEAD and a Trustee of the Development Trust (for the Mentally Handicapped).

He was Chairman of Production Services Network Ltd from 2009 to 2011, of TDG plc from 2000 to 2008 and of Eurotunnel Group from 2001 to 2004 (having been Deputy Chairman from 1999 to 2001 and a Non- Executive Director from 1997). He has also served on the Boards of HSBC, British Airways, Johnson Matthey, Thistle Hotels, Gucci and INSEAD among others.

He was Chief Executive of Inchcape plc between 1991 and 1996, having been Executive Chairman of Inchcape Pacific from 1986 to 1991. He worked previously with BP, McKinsey, Pakhoed Holding and Chloride. He has lived and worked in Continental Europe, Asia and Africa as well as the UK.

**Notes to Editors**

Established by Royal Charter in 1998, Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace the Banqueting House, and Kew Palace. These palaces are owned by The Queen on behalf of the nation, and Historic Royal Palaces manages them for the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. Historic Royal Palaces receives no funding from the Government or the Crown, so depends on the support of visitors, members, donors, volunteers and sponsors.

With a total turnover of over £62m, all self-generated, and permanent staffing of over 700 people, Historic Royal Palaces' aim is to help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

To celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics this year, Historic Royal Palaces will have completed four major projects:

- Kensington Palace will re-open in March 2012, following a major £12 million project which will transform the visitor experience, with many improvements to help visitors enjoy and understand this historic royal residence.
- At the Tower of London, the iconic White Tower has been conserved and a major re-presentation of the Crown Jewels will also open in March.
- The Royal Kitchens at Kew Palace will open to the public for the very first time in Summer 2012, following complete restoration.

Also in 2012, Hampton Court Palace will be an official Olympic venue, hosting the cycling time trials on 1 August 2012, and both the Tower of London and Hampton Court will play significant roles in the journey of the Olympic torch around London.

The Chairman and Trustees give their services on an honorary basis. Expenses incurred by them, in the performance of their duties, are reimbursed.

For more information about Historic Royal Palaces please contact the HRP press office on 020 3166 6166 or email [press@hrp.org.uk](mailto:press@hrp.org.uk) More information can be found at [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)