

January 2011

## New Board Members for VisitBritain

John Penrose, the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, has reappointed Christopher Rodrigues CBE as the Chairman of VisitBritain, for a further four years from 1 January 2011.

## **Christopher Rodrigues**

First appointed as VisitBritain's Chairman in 2007, Christopher Rodrigues is also Chairman of International Personal Finance plc, The Windsor Leadership Trust and The Almeida Theatre, and is a Council member of the National Trust. He has been an independent Non-executive Director at Ladbrokes plc (formerly Hilton Group plc) since 2003, and is an Executive Committee Member of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

His past experience includes time as President and Chief Executive of Visa International from 1997-2003, and Chief Executive of Thomas Cook from 1988-1996. He had previously been a Manager at McKinsey and Co, before moving to American Express. He was awarded CBE in the 2007 New Year Honours list for services to British business interests and charitable works in the UK and USA. He holds no other public appointments.

## **Background**

VisitBritain is the national tourism agency, and is responsible for inspiring the world to explore Britain and for developing the UK's visitor economy. It is the international tourism promotional arm for Britain and its nations and regions.

The Chairman role attracts a remuneration of £49,090 per annum, in return for a commitment of two days per week on average.

The reappointment has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. All public 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 past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Mr Rodrigues has declared no political activity.