**ANDREW ROBERTS APPOINTED AS TRUSTEE OF THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

The Prime Minister has appointed Dr Andrew Roberts as a Trustee of The National Portrait Gallery, for four years commencing 1 June 2013.

**Biographical details**

Dr Andrew Roberts has written or edited twelve books, and appears regularly on radio and television around the world.  In 2011 Dr Roberts was appointed to the committee of the International Friends of the London Library, the Academic Board of the Henry Jackson Society, the Review Committee of the Dan David Prize, and he became an Honorary Co-Chair of the New York Historical Society’s Chairman’s Council. In April 2012 he was awarded the William Penn Prize (former recipients include President Ulysses S. Grant, Gen. George C. Marshall, Walt Whitman and Earl Mountbatten). Masters and Commanders, which was published in 2008, won the Emery Reves Award of the International Churchill Society and was shortlisted for The Duke of Westminster’s Gold Medal for Military History and The British Army Military Book Award, both of Britain’s two top military history prizes. The Storm of War was published in August 2009 and reached No.2 on The Sunday Times bestseller list, and won the British Army Military Book Award for 2010. Dr Roberts is a Director of the Harry Guggenheim Foundation in New York, a founder member of President Jose Maria Aznar's Friends of Israel Committee (alongside Vaclav Havel, Lech Walesa and Alejandro Toledo), and in 2010 he chaired the Hessell-Tiltman Award for Non-Fiction. He is also Vice President-elect of the Guild of Battlefield Guides. Dr Roberts is a quondam judge on the Elizabeth Longford Historical Biography Prize and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He has also been elected a Fellow of the Napoleonic Institute and an Honorary Member of the International Churchill Society (UK). He is a Trustee of the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust and of the Roberts Foundation.

**Background**

The National Portrait Gallery holds the largest and most distinguished collection of portraits in the world.  It has over 175,000 works from the 16th century to the present day and, now, over 100,000 of them are accessible online. The Gallery’s principal aim is to promote through the medium of portraits the appreciation and understanding of men and women who have made and are making British history and culture, and to promote the appreciation and understanding of portraiture in all media.  The Gallery fulfils a number of roles relating to the historic and contemporary aspects of this collection: a research and academic role, an educational role, and a wider role within public life.

The National Portrait Gallery has never been so popular in its 150 year history.  Between April 2012 and March 2013 the Gallery attracted over two million visitors, its highest ever twelve-month total.  Underpinning its appeal has been a number of successful temporary exhibitions. *Lucian Freud Portraits*, held between February and May 2012, was the Gallery’s most popular ticketed exhibition ever, with over 246,000 visits and great critical acclaim.  HRH The Duchess of Cambridge became the Gallery’s Patron in January 2012.

**Notes to Editors**

1.We were looking for a person with skills which included: a thorough knowledge of British history and culture post-1500; an active interest in the public’s engagement with history and an ability to contribute to the acquisitions process; excellent communication and representational skills, with the ability to act as an advocate of the Gallery ; and to be aware of opportunities to introduce potential supporters to the Gallery's work and a willingness to support the Gallery’s fundraising activities.

2. Appointments to the Board of Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery are made by the Prime Minister on recommendation from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The appointment process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The post is not remunerated. Dr Roberts holds no other Ministerial public appointments.

3. 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 defined political activity in the last five years to be made public. Dr Roberts has declared having spoken on behalf of the Conservative Party and/or a specific candidate, and also canvassing on behalf of the Conservative Party and/or helping at elections.