

Annexes

Annex A

Commissioner biographies

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Clive Cowdery (Commission Chair)

Chairman, Resolution Group

Clive is Chairman of the Resolution Foundation Trustees and Chairman of Resolution Group, a FTSE 100 listed company which saw revenue of £4,104 million in 2011. Resolution is an investment vehicle that specialises in corporate buy-outs and restructuring in the insurance industry. He was previously the Chief Executive of Resolution Life Group Limited, a company that he founded in 2003. He was appointed Chairman of Resolution plc in September 2005 following the merger of Britannic Group plc and Resolution Life Group Limited.

Phil Bentley

Managing Director, British Gas

Phil is the Managing Director of British Gas, the UK's largest energy provider, employing 28,000 people and servicing 50 per cent of UK households. He was appointed MD in 2007, having previously served as Group Finance Director of Centrica plc from 2000. For two years, from 2004 to 2006, he also performed the role of Managing Director, British Gas, Europe. Phil joined Centrica in November 2000 from Diageo where he was Global Finance Director for Guinness-UDV. During the period from 1982 to 1997, Phil was at BP, where he spent 15 years in various senior finance roles.

Sir Win Bischoff

Chairman, Lloyds Banking Group

Sir Win is Chairman of Lloyds Banking Group plc. With 120,000 employees and total assets of £970 billion (2011) Lloyds Banking Group is the largest retail bank in the UK. Sir Win was formerly Chairman of Citigroup 2007-2009, where he also served as interim CEO in 2007. Prior to this he was Group Chief Executive of Schroders plc, appointed in 1984, becoming Chairman in 1995. In 2000, when Schroders was acquired by Citigroup, Sir Win took the role of Chairman of Citigroup Europe and sat as a member of The Operating Committee of Citigroup Inc. He is a non-executive director at McGraw-Hill, Eli Lilly and Company, Land Securities, Akbank and Prudential. Sir Win also sits on the Board of the educational charity Career Academies UK, which works to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged 16-19 year olds.

Mike Brewer

Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

Mike is Professor of Economics at the Institute for Social and Economic Research. His research has a particular focus on welfare reform and the way the tax and benefit system impacts families with children. He has been involved in many large scale evaluations of government policy and welfare programmes. Prior to his current role he worked at the Institute for Fiscal Studies for 10 years, from 2001-2011. He became Programme Director, Direct Tax and Welfare in 2004, before becoming Deputy Director in 2010. During the period 1997-2001, Mike worked as an Economic Assistant in HM Treasury.

Chris Gibson-Smith

Non-executive Chairman, British Land

Chris is non-executive Chairman of Britain Land and Chairman of the London Stock Exchange (LSE), a position he has held since 2003. He is also Chairman of the Advisory Board at the think tank Reform. The LSE administers the largest equities market in Europe covering companies with a market capitalisation of some £4 trillion. Chris is also a Director of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority and a Governor of the London Business School. Before becoming Chairman of the LSE, Chris was Chairman of The British Land Company: the UK's second largest property group by market cap and was Group Managing Director of BP from 1997-2001.

Gaby Hinsliff

Author and Political Editor-at-Large, Grazia

Gaby Hinsliff is Policy Editor-at-Large at Grazia magazine. She is a writer, blogger and broadcaster on public policy and private lives. Previously she covered politics for The Observer for 12 years, leaving the paper as political editor in 2009. She currently writes for a range of national titles from Grazia to The Guardian. Gaby is a trustee of the children's charity 4Children, a member of the advisory council for the Centre for Social Justice, and she also served on the Family Friendly Working Hours Taskforce established by the Department of Work and Pensions in 2010.

Paul Johnson

Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Paul is the Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), having been appointed in January 2011. The Institute is the UK's leading microeconomic research institute, and is viewed across the political spectrum as an objective and authoritative commentator on a range of issues including public finances, tax and welfare policy, and inequality and poverty. In between previous spells at the IFS, Paul has worked as Chief Economist at the Department for Education and as Director of Public Spending in HM Treasury. He has been a member of a number of advisory boards and commissions including the Pension Provision Group, the Commission on taxation and citizenship, the Youth Justice Commission.

Gavin Kelly

Chief Executive, Resolution Foundation

Gavin is Chief Executive of the Resolution Foundation and is a leading media commentator on politics and public policy – writing for the Guardian, FT, and Prospect as well as being a regular blogger for the New Statesman. He covers a wide range of issues spanning economic policy, low pay, welfare reform, public services and social mobility. He joined the Resolution Foundation from No 10 Downing Street where he worked as Deputy Chief of Staff. He spent over a decade in Whitehall and was a member of the Council of Economic Advisors at HM Treasury, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State at the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, Deputy Head of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, and a member of Tony Blair's Policy Unit.

Professor Stephen Machin

Research Director, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics

Stephen Machin is Professor of Economics at University College London and Research Director of the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) at the London School of Economics. The CEP studies determinants of economic performance at the level of the company, the nation and the global economy; Professor Machin specialises in studying labour markets. He is one of the Editors of the Economic Journal. Previously he has been visiting Professor at Harvard University (1993/4) and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2001/2). He is an elected fellow of the British Academy, current President of the European Association of Labour Economists (from 2008) and is a member of the Low Pay Commission.

Dame Julie Moore

Chief Executive, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Dame Julie is the Chief Executive of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB). She was appointed to the role in 2006, having started her career as a graduate nurse working in clinical practice. UHB has 1250 beds, £520m turnover, 6700 staff, treats 700,000 patients annually and has a £545m PFI new hospital building which opened on time and on budget in 2010. In 2008, UHB opened the Learning Hub in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council, which helps long term unemployed people back into work. In April 2011 she was asked by the Government to be a member of the NHS Future Forum to lead on the proposals for Education and Training reform. Julie was made a dame for services to health in the 2012 New Year's honours list.

Frances O'Grady

General Secretary Designate, Trades Union Congress

Frances became TUC General Secretary Designate in September 2012 and will be the first female General Secretary of the TUC. From January 2003 she was Deputy General Secretary of the TUC having lead responsibility for a wide range of key areas of policy development across the TUC's work including organising, inter-union relations, learning and skills, pay and the environment. Frances was appointed to the Low Pay Commission in April 2007 and, more recently, to the High Pay Commission. She is a member of the Green Economy Council, the Apprenticeship Ambassadors' Network and the Skills Funding Agency Advisory Group.

Ben Page

Chief Executive, Ipsos MORI

Ben Page is Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI and sits on the Global Ipsos Management Council. Since 1992 Ben has worked extensively with both Conservative and Labour ministers, leading the work of the Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute looking at issues such quality of life, welfare reform, and the effectiveness of public services for the Cabinet Office, CLG, Home Office and the Department of Health. He joined MORI in 1987 after graduating from Oxford University, and was one of the leaders of its first management buyout in 2000. Ben has been named one of the "100 most influential people in the public sector" by the Guardian, and one of the 50 "most influential" by both Local Government Chronicle and the Health Service Journal.

Sally Russell

Co-founder and Director, Netmums

Sally is the Director and founding-member of Netmums: a community-based network for parents, with over one million members across the country, and with two million visitors per month. Netmums contains comprehensive local information for parents. Sally is responsible for the website's content and external affairs, including research, campaigning work and the development of online support services. She has worked as Research Fellow at Imperial College, London and has sat on the Cabinet Office Innovators Council.

James Plunkett

Secretary to the Commission on Living Standards

James is Secretary to the Commission on Living Standards. As Secretary to the Commission, James' work at the Resolution Foundation focuses on the long-term economic trends that are changing the nature of life on low-to-middle income in modern Britain, from the labour market to trends in the cost of living. His work also examines the implications of these trends for the welfare state and public services. He joined the Resolution Foundation in 2010, prior to which he was a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. From 2008-2009 he worked in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at Number 10 Downing Street. He has also worked in the Cabinet Office and as a strategy consultant in the private sector.