

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ELISABETH DAVIES IS APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CONSUMER PANEL**

The Legal Services Board - the independent body overseeing the regulation of lawyers in England and Wales – has announced the appointment of Elisabeth Davies as Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel.

The appointment will be for the period 1 August 2011 to 31 March 2013.

The process for appointing a new Chair began following the resignation earlier this month of Baroness Dianne Hayter due to commitments in the House of Lords.

**Legal Services Board Chairman David Edmonds** said:

*"I am delighted to welcome Elisabeth Davies' appointment as Chair of the Consumer Panel. I know that her breadth of experience, built across both the public and voluntary sectors, in supporting consumers and service users will shape her leadership of the Panel. Earlier this month, the Panel's annual report set out an impressive range of policy thinking and influencing delivered to date – this gives a sense of the scale of what further goals can be achieved across important debates for regulation over the term of Elisabeth's appointment".*

**Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel Elisabeth Davies** said:

*"Thanks to Dianne's leadership the Panel has already had a positive impact for consumers and she's leaving us with a clear and focussed work programme to increase this impact in the future. With the first alternative business structures open for business later in the year, our work*

*on behalf of consumers will be of critical importance and I'm honoured to have the chance to lead the Panel at such an important time".*

**For more information please contact Craig Jones, Media and Public Affairs Manager, on [craig.jones@legalservicesboard.org.uk](mailto:craig.jones@legalservicesboard.org.uk) or by calling 020 7271 0068 / 07702 428210.**

#### **Notes for editors:**

1. This appointment is on an interim basis running up to 31 March 2013.
2. Elisabeth is Director of Partner Relations at Age UK, where she works closely with over 160 local Age UKs across England and supports the work of Age Cymru, Age Northern Ireland and Age Scotland. She was previously Deputy Chair of Wandsworth Primary Care Trust and is the former Chair of Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureaux. Her career includes a series of senior roles in the health arena including at the National Patient Safety Agency, the UK Breast Cancer Coalition, the Patients Association and the World Cancer Research Fund. She was also previously Director of Policy at the Refugee Council.
3. Biographies of other Panel members can be found on the [Panel's website](#).
4. The Consumer Panel recently released its [annual report](#) for 2010-11.
5. The Legal Services Act ("The Act") created the Legal Services Board as a new regulator with responsibility for overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime became active on 1 January 2010.
6. The LSB oversees eight Approved Regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers. The Approved Regulators, designated under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2007 Act, are the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Master of the Faculties, the Institute of Legal Executives, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Costs Lawyers.
7. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as Approved Regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
8. The legal profession currently consists of some 15,000 barristers, 119,000 solicitors and 12,000 individuals operating in other aspects of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £24.74 billion per annum (total turnover in 2009).