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Press Notice

Appointments to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Lord Phillips, President of The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, today welcomed the announcement of the appointments of Lord Justice Wilson and Jonathan Sumption QC as new Justices of the UK's highest court.

The two appointments follow the retirement of Lord Saville and the imminent retirement of Lord Collins, and will satisfy the current statutory requirement that there shall be twelve Justices of the Supreme Court.

The two appointments were made by Her Majesty The Queen at the recommendation of the Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor, following the recommendation of an independent selection commission. The commission consulted across each of the Supreme Court's three UK jurisdictions before making their recommendations.

Lord Phillips said:

"I am very pleased to welcome these appointments. The independent selection commission considered a strong field of candidates who applied following open advertisement of the vacancies.

"Lord Justice Wilson will prove a valuable asset to this court as another Judge with a family law background, whose skill and knowledge has shone through all his judgments at the Court of Appeal for England and Wales.

"Jonathan Sumption is widely acknowledged to be one of this country's leading advocates. He has demonstrated incisive intellectual rigour throughout his years as a barrister.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

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“These appointments reflect the fact that the pool of legal talent from which the highest court in the land can draw was deliberately widened by Parliament when it created the Supreme Court. I am very much looking forward to working alongside two new Justices of such considerable calibre.”

Lord Justice Wilson said:

“I am deeply honoured by my appointment which presents a huge challenge and casts a heavy burden of responsibility. I hope to contribute wisely to the development of the law.”

Jonathan Sumption QC said:

“This is a challenging time for the development of the law, and I am honoured to have the opportunity of contributing to the work of one of the world’s great common law courts.”

Ends

Notes to Editors

The appointments were announced today by 10 Downing Street. The official announcement, including biographies of the two appointees, can be viewed here:

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notice/2011/05/senior-judicial-appointments-63428>

Lord Justice Wilson will be formally sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court on Thursday 26 May. Jonathan Sumption QC will be sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court at a date to be agreed between him and the President.

Photographs of the two appointees are available on request.

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