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Press Notice

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, to retire next summer

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, has today announced that he will retire as the most senior judge in the UK at the end of this legal year (30 September 2012). He wrote to the Lord Chancellor last week to inform him of his decision.

Lord Phillips said: “I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of presiding over the new Supreme Court and was tempted to continue right up to my retirement age in January 2013. I have decided, however, that it makes more sense to go at the end of the legal year, so that I can make an orderly hand-over to my successor in the course of the summer vacation.”

The Right Hon the Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, KG, is the very first President of the Supreme Court. He was educated at Bryanston School, and after national service with the Royal Navy he studied law at King’s College Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1962 and became a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, in 1987.

He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1995 and became a Law Lord in 1999. He was appointed Master of the Rolls in June 2000 and appointed Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales in October 2005. He became Senior Law Lord in October 2008. He was appointed a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by Her Majesty The Queen in April 2011.

The process to appoint a successor as President of the Supreme Court will begin in the new year.

Ends

Notes to editors

Supreme Court Justices’ retirement ages are governed by the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993. All Judges appointed to their first judicial post after 31 March 1995, when that Act came into

force, have to retire when they reach the age of 70. Others can continue until 75. Lord Phillips' compulsory retirement date is 21 January 2013, when he reaches the latter age.

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