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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE APPOINTS NEW TRUSTEE TO THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND

Linda Fabiani, the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, today announced the appointment of Mr Herbert Coutts and the reappointment of Mr Charles James Dawnay to the Board of Trustees for the National Galleries of Scotland.

Sir Brian Ivory, Chairman of the Trustees said: "I am delighted to welcome Herbert Coutts to the Board. His deep knowledge of the arts and culture scene at a local level will be of great value to the work of the Trustees."

Herbert Coutts has served in senior local government cultural posts for more than forty years. As Edinburgh's City Curator, he oversaw the establishment, and subsequent extension, of the City Art Centre in Market Street, the re-display and extension of the Museum of Childhood, the development of The People's Story Museum and the restoration of the Scott Monument.

For the final period of his career, Coutts directed the Capital's Culture and Leisure Department. His achievements in the field of the arts included the establishment of Edinburgh's Cultural Partnership (following the publication of the city's first Cultural Policy), the renovation of the Usher Hall, the development of Makar's Court (Scotland's Poets' Corner), and persuading the City Council to support the bid to achieve UNESCO City of Literature status for Edinburgh. Mr Coutts holds no other Ministerial appointment.

James Dawnay is a member of the National Trust and The National Trust for Scotland. He has been a Director of London's oldest established fine art consultancy, Gurr Johns, and holds Chairmanships and Directorships with various Trusts in the fields of arts and architecture, museums and finance. He is also a Director of a number of Investment Trust companies. Mr Dawnay holds no other Ministerial appointment.

Both appointments will be for a four-year term and will run from 1 August 2007 until 31 July 2011.

The posts are part-time and are not remunerated. Board members are expected to prepare for and attend approximately six Board meetings a year and may be involved in additional meetings and events.

The National Galleries of Scotland is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) with a Board appointed by, and accountable to, Scottish Ministers. The National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 provides for Scottish Ministers to appoint members to the Board of Trustees.

These Ministerial public appointments were made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland's Code of Practice.

All 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 appointees' political activity (if there is any to be declared) to be made public. Within the last five years, Mr Coutts was invited by the Labour Party to stand as a Candidate for the East Lothian Council in the Municipal Elections held in May 2007. Within the last five years, Mr Dawnay has not been involved in any political activity.

For further information please contact the National Galleries of Scotland Press Office on

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