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NEWS RELEASE

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BARONESS SCOTLAND APPOINTED AS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

Baroness Scotland QC has today been appointed as the new Attorney General. Appointed by the new Prime Minister, Baroness Scotland will become the country's first female Attorney General and will take up the post with immediate effect.

Baroness Scotland said, "I am delighted to have been appointed as the Attorney General. I am honoured to accept this important role and to continue the good work of Peter Goldsmith who fulfilled the office with real distinction. I look forward to rising to future challenges, and working closely with colleagues in the Law Officers' Departments and across Government".

The Attorney General fulfils the role of chief legal adviser to the government and is superintendent of prosecuting authorities within England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These are the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland. The Attorney General also has overall responsibility for the Treasury Solicitor's department and has functions as guardian of the public interest.

Baroness Scotland has come from the Home Office, where she had responsibility for, Respect, anti-social behaviour policy, crime reduction strategy, youth crime, all legislation in the Lords, domestic violence, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and criminal law, race equality, international issues and was also the ministerial adviser on legal affairs.

Previously she was Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department from 2001 to 2003, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1999 to 2001. She was also an Alternate UK Government Representative of the European Convention from 2002 to 2003.

After graduating with LLB Hons (London), Patricia Scotland was called to the Bar, Middle Temple, in 1977, received Silk in 1991 and became a Bencher in 1997. She is a member of the Bar of Antigua and the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is an Honorary Fellow of The Society for Advanced Legal Studies, Wolfson College, Cambridge and of Cardiff University. She has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Westminster and the University of Buckingham.

She is a former member of the Bar Public Relations Committee, Race Relations Committee, Professional Conduct Committee, Judicial Studies Board Ethnic Minority Advisory Committee, House of Commons Working Party on Child Abduction, Legal Advisory Panel on the National Consumer Council, the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services and the National Advisory Committee on Mentally Disordered Offenders.

In addition, she was formerly one of Her Majesty's Commissioners for Racial Equality, a former Honorary President of the Trinity Hall Law Society, a former Chairman of the ILEA Disciplinary Tribunal, a member of the BBC World Service Consultative Group, Chairman of HMG Caribbean Advisory Group, the Dominican Representative of the Council of The British Commonwealth Ex-Service league and served as a member of the Millennium Commission from 1994-99.

She has specialised in family and public law and has chaired and represented parties in a number of Inquiries relating to Child Abuse, Mental Health and Housing.

She was founder member and former Head of Chambers of 1 Gray's Inn Square.

Baroness Scotland was created a peer as Baroness Scotland of Asthal, in the County of Oxfordshire, in 1997 and was raised to the Privy Council in July 2001.

She married in 1985 and has two sons. She was born in Dominica in 1955.

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