



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
20, VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0NF

Tel: 020 7271 2465/2440 Fax: 020 7271 2432

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE APPOINTED

The Attorney General, the Rt Hon Baroness Scotland QC, has appointed Richard Alderman to be Director of the Serious Fraud Office. Mr Alderman will succeed the present Director, Robert Wardle, on 21st April 2008.

Mr. Alderman is currently the Director of the National Teams and Special Civil Investigations at HM Revenue & Customs.

In making the appointment the Attorney General said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of Richard Alderman. I look forward to working with him and I am sure all at the Serious Fraud Office are delighted that someone with such experience and strong expertise in complex fraud investigations, including notable work at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, will be leading them in to the future".

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For media enquiries please contact Charlotte Phillips at the Attorney General's press office on 0207 271 2440 or email charlotte.phillips@attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

1. The Serious Fraud Office was created under the Criminal Justice Act 1987 to investigate and prosecute the most serious and complex cases of fraud. It commenced operation in April 1988. It is an independent government department headed by the Director under the superintendence of the Attorney General.

2. The SFO has prosecuted 319 trials involving 704 defendants of whom 485 have been convicted, which represents a conviction rate by defendant of 69%. Convictions have been gained in 83% of the cases prosecuted by the SFO.
3. The appointment of the Director of the Serious Fraud Office is made by the Attorney General under section 1(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

RICHARD ALDERMAN, DIRECTOR DESIGNATE, SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE

Biographical Note

Richard Alderman is a barrister. His current role as Director of National Teams and Special Civil Investigations in HM Revenue and Customs has involved responsibility for 3000 staff who carry out specialised tax investigations. He has very extensive experience of complex financial investigations from this role and from his previous roles in Inland Revenue. As Director of the Revenue's Special Compliance Office from 2003 to 2005, he was responsible for all of the criminal investigations carried out by the Inland Revenue. These included very complex cases that are similar in weight and complexity to the workload of the SFO. Before becoming Director of the Special Compliance Office, Richard had been the senior lawyer in the Revenue's Solicitor's Office responsible for the conduct of criminal prosecutions. These roles have meant that Richard has great experience both in the investigation as well as in the prosecution of complex fraud.

Richard has also carried out other key roles in the Government Legal Service. In 2002, he was invited by the Attorney General and the Treasury Solicitor to work with the Home Office to set up the Assets Recovery Agency and subsequently became its first Legal Director. Richard was also seconded to the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers between 1991 and 1993 and worked closely with the Law Officers in that role.

Richard is 55 years old and is married with one daughter.

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