



## **Appointment of New Chair to the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information**

Minister of State for Justice Michael Wills today announced the appointment of Professor David Rhind, former Vice Chancellor at City University, Chair of the Statistics Commission and CEO of Ordnance Survey, as the new Chair of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information. Professor Rhind takes up the appointment on 1 May 2008. The appointment is for a minimum term of three years.

### **Michael Wills said:**

“I am delighted to welcome Professor Rhind as the new Chair of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information. Information handling has underpinned every stage of his career in the public and academic sectors. I am confident that Professor Rhind will play a major role in supporting and help drive forward the Government’s information strategies.

I must also pay tribute to the excellent work of Richard Susskind, the outgoing Chair. As the first Chair of APPSI Richard has played a key role in shaping and influencing government thinking on the re-use of public sector information.”

### **Professor Richard Susskind said:**

“I am absolutely delighted that David Rhind is to be my successor. He is the ideal person to take over as Chair of APPSI. He has enormous experience as a chairman and also brings a wealth of knowledge about public information. I am confident that under his leadership APPSI will thrive over the next few years and continue to play a pivotal role in advising and influencing ministers and officials.”

### **Professor Rhind said:**

“The wealth of public sector information informs and guides UK citizens and helps to keep them safe. It also fuels business and supports innovation. I am delighted to be appointed as Chair of APPSI and look forward to working with all the players involved.”

## **Notes to Editors**

1. The Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI) is an independent non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice, set up in 2003. It has responsibility for advising Ministers about opportunities for greater re-use of public sector information. It also advises the Director of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) about changes and opportunities in the information industry. Under the re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, APPSI has a role in the reviewing of complaints. More information about APPSI can be found on the APPSI website: [www.appsi.gov.uk](http://www.appsi.gov.uk)
2. The appointment was made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
3. OPSI is at the heart of information policy, setting standards, delivering access and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. More information on OPSI can be found at: [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

## **Ministry of Justice Press Office**

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