

January 2010

David Fursdon and John R Walker CBE are appointed Commissioners of English Heritage

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, announced today that David Fursdon and John R Walker CBE have been appointed Commissioners of English Heritage. Their terms of appointment will run from 1st February 2010 to 31 January 2014.

Biographical notes

David Fursdon is a Crown Estate Commissioner also serving on the Commission's Audit and Remuneration Committees, and on its Offshore Energy Supervisory Committee (2008 to date). He is also a Board member of the South West Regional Development Agency (started 2010). Since 1979, he has been the Sole Principal of the Fursdon Estate; an ancient, rural estate with substantial obligations which needed diversification and development. From 2000 to 2007, he was involved with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), initially chairing its Review Steering Group before serving as Chair of the CLA Board and then as President of the CLA. He is a Director on the Board of the Historic Houses Association, (2002 to date). He has undertaken no political activity during the past five years.

Until November 2008, John Walker CBE was Chief Executive of English Partnerships (EP). He joined EP in 1994 as Chief Operations Officer before going on to hold the posts of Regional Director, Finance Director, and then Chief Accountant. Prior to this, he served as Chief Finance Officer for Northumbria Police, before joining the Teesside Development Corporation as Director of Finance and Administration (1985 to 1990). He is a board member with the Esh Group of companies - a North East based company involved with development, construction, housing, land and building maintenance, and with Gentoo - a RSL with a development arm as well as a specialist environmental division. He is a board member of the Wynyard Park trust and serves on English Heritage's Audit Committee. He has undertaken no political activity during the past five years.

Background

English Heritage (EH) is the public body with responsibility for all aspects of protecting and promoting the historic environment. It is the statutory adviser to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport on listing and heritage matters, manages over 400 historic properties, and disburses some £35 million a year in conservation and archaeology grants. English Heritage is also responsible for the National Monuments Record, the central archive for the historic environment in England.



The Commission is the governing body of English Heritage, and the Commissioners have corporate responsibility for the organisation.

EH Commissioners receive an allowance receives an allowance which directly reflects the level of responsibilities undertaken, such as chairing an Advisory Committee and/or duties as a regional Commissioner. The remuneration range is currently £4,090 to £9,340 per annum

These appointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.