

September 2011

## **Reappointment of Chairman at the Football Licensing Authority**

Hugh Robertson, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, has reappointed Paul Darling QC as Chairman of the Football Licensing Authority (FLA). His second term runs from 1 October 2011 for the three years to 30 September 2014.

### **Paul Darling QC**

A barrister since 1985, and a Queen's Counsel since 1999, Mr Darling's practice ranges across construction and engineering law. He is currently a Bencher of Middle Temple, a Trustee of the Free Representation Unit and Head of Keating Chambers. He is also a director of a family-owned pharmaceutical company. He is an Independent Member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, which is remunerated at £19,470 per annum for an expected time commitment of 2-3 days per month on average. He holds no other public appointments.

### **Background**

Under the terms of The Football Spectators Act (1989), appointments to the board of the FLA cannot exceed three years. The appointments are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

The Sports Grounds Safety Authority Act 2011 will rename the Football Licensing Authority (FLA) as the Sports Grounds Safety Authority and enable it to provide advice, on request, about safety at sports grounds to any national or international organisation, person or body. The proposed changes will not extend the FLA's licensing functions or its local authority oversight duties under the 1989 Act to sports grounds other than football grounds. It is expected that the FLA will formally become the Sports Grounds Safety Authority later this year.

All public appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the appointment process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity in the last five years (if any declared) to be made public. Mr Darling has declared no political activity. The expected time commitment for the role of Chairman of the FLA is approximately four days per month, which is remunerated at £18,130 per year.

The current board of the FLA comprises:

Paul Darling QC (Chairman)  
Brendon Batson MBE  
Dr Pauleen Lane CBE  
Peter Rowley  
Julie Summerell  
Ronald Wilkie  
Derek Wilson

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