

July 2012

## **THE PRIME MINISTER APPOINTS MR STEPHAN SHAKESPEARE TO THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

The Prime Minister has appointed Mr Stephan Shakespeare to the Board of the National Portrait Gallery for a period of four years from 11 October 2012.

### **Biographical Details**

Stephan Shakespeare is Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of YouGov plc, and also Co-Founder of new online venture, Opigram. He is a member of the Cambridge Public Policy External Advisory Board and the YouGov-Cambridge Advisory Board. Most recently, Stephan was appointed chair of the Data Strategy Board for the Department for Business Innovation and Skill.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. We were looking for a person with a knowledge of the media both traditional and digital, as a means of promoting the Gallery and developing wider audiences. This appointment was made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity has no part in the selection process. Mr Stephan Shakespeare has contributed regularly to the Conservativehome.com website. This post is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.
2. Sir William Proby is the recently elected Chairman of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. He succeeds Sir David Cannadine who has stood down after 11½ years' service to the Gallery's Board, over 7 years of that time as Chairman.
3. The National Portrait Gallery holds the largest and most distinguished collection of portraits in the world. It has over 175,000 works from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day and, now, over 100,000 of them are accessible online. The Gallery's principal aim is to promote through the medium of portraits the appreciation and understanding of men and women who have made and are making British history and culture, and to promote the appreciation and understanding of portraiture in all media. The Gallery fulfils a number of roles relating to the historic and contemporary aspects of this collection: a research and academic role, an educational role, and a wider role within public life.
4. The National Portrait Gallery has never been so popular in its 150 year history. Between April 2011 and March 2012 the Gallery attracted over two million visitors, its highest ever twelve-month total. Underpinning its appeal has been a number of successful temporary exhibitions; the latest, *Lucian Freud Portraits*, has been the Gallery's most popular ticketed exhibition ever, with over 241,000 visits and great critical acclaim. Early in 2012, the Gallery was delighted when HRH The Duchess of Cambridge selected the Gallery as one of the first charities of which she would become a Patron