



APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, today announced the appointment of Douglas Bain as the new Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland. Douglas Bain succeeds Denis Stanley, who retired on 31 March.

Commenting on the appointment, Peter Hain said:

“The role of Chief Electoral Officer is at the heart of the democratic process in Northern Ireland. I am delighted that we have found someone of Douglas Bain's calibre to succeed Denis Stanley.

“I pay tribute to the work of Denis Stanley, who has served Northern Ireland as Chief Electoral Officer for five years with commitment and integrity. He has overseen the conduct of numerous major elections, and his tenure has witnessed the introduction of significant reforms to the electoral registration system in Northern Ireland which have seen the accuracy of the register significantly enhanced. He has also been an architect of the detailed proposals to further reform and modernise the electoral registration arrangements in Northern Ireland, which currently are being taken forward in the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. I wish him well in his retirement.”

Notes to Editors

Douglas Bain was called to the Scottish bar in 1973. After working there in both the private and public sector he moved to Northern Ireland in 1988. Following a number of jobs in the Northern Ireland Office he was appointed as Director of Services in the Northern Ireland Prison Service in 2000. Douglas is married and is involved in equestrian sport both as a competitor and an administrator.