

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR COMPETITION COMMISSION

Professor Paul Geroski was today appointed as the new Chairman of the Competition Commission (CC). He succeeds Sir Derek Morris who is to become Provost of Oriel College, Oxford. Professor Geroski is currently a Deputy Chairman of the CC and Professor of Economics at the London Business School.

Professor Geroski said:

“I am very pleased to accept this appointment. The CC has a very important role in implementing competition policy in the UK, particularly in the wake of the Enterprise Act. Under Sir Derek’s leadership the CC has made great strides in adapting to its new role, and I look forward to building on and taking forward the work that he has done.”

Outgoing Chairman Sir Derek Morris said:

“I warmly welcome this announcement. Paul Geroski is one of the foremost economists in the UK and has proved himself to be an outstanding Deputy Chairman during a period of great change at the CC. With its greatly enhanced powers under the Enterprise Act I am confident that Paul has the ability to lead the CC into the next phase of its development.”

Notes to editors

1. Professor Geroski’s remuneration as full-time Chairman will be £150,000 a year.
2. Professor Geroski chaired ten Fair Trading Act merger inquiries including the recent merger between Carlton and Granada (2003). He also chaired the five-yearly review of Manchester Airport (2002) and the regulatory inquiry into the termination charges levied by mobile network operators (Vodafone, O2, Orange and T-Mobile 2002). He recently chaired the first merger inquiry under the Enterprise Act (P&O/Stena, 2004).
3. Inquiries should be directed to Francis Royle, Chief Press Officer, tel 020 7271 0242.