



News Release

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CC WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY CHAIR

Peter Freeman, Chairman of the Competition Commission (CC), has welcomed the appointment of Laura Carstensen as a new Deputy Chair of the CC.

Laura Carstensen, whose appointment was [announced](#) today by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), has been a member of the CC since 2005, having previously been a partner in the law firm Slaughter and May, specializing in UK and EU competition law. She is currently chairing the CC's [investigation](#) into the anticipated acquisition of Friends Reunited from ITV by Brightsolid.

Peter Freeman said: 'Laura Carstensen has already demonstrated great ability and commitment during her time as a member of the CC and I have no doubt she will move easily into her new role as Deputy Chairman. I am very pleased that she has accepted this appointment'.

Notes to editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The CC conducts in-depth inquiries into mergers, markets and the regulation of the major regulated industries. Each inquiry is undertaken in response to a reference made to it by another competition authority, usually the Office of Fair Trading, or regulators under sector-specific legislative provisions relating to regulated industries. Under the Enterprise Act 2002, the CC's role was considerably strengthened and widened, especially by giving it a determinative role in respect of remedies to be applied. The Deputy Chair is also a working member of the CC and sits on its Council, the strategic management board.
3. Ms Carstensen's appointment as Deputy Chair will be part-time (four days per week) and will be from 1 February 2010 until 31 March 2013.
4. From the time of her appointment, Ms Carstensen's remuneration will be £102,640.

5. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Ms Carstensen has not undertaken any political activity within the last five years. She is a member of the Co-operation and Competition Panel for NHS Funded Services (for which she is remunerated £750 per day) and is a non-executive member of the Board of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (for which she receives no remuneration).
6. All members of the CC are subject to the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975, which disqualifies holders of scheduled public offices from membership of the House of Commons.
7. The appointment has been made following an open competition in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice.
8. Enquiries should be directed to [Rory Taylor](#) or [John Park](#) or by ringing 020 7271 0242.