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News Release

Lord Neuberger to be sworn in as new Supreme Court President

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury will be sworn in as the new President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom later this morning (Monday 1 October), taking his seat as the most senior judge in the UK.

Lord Neuberger becomes the second President of the Supreme Court since it was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in October 2009 to replace the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords.

Since then, as well as adjudicating on around 120 cases each year, the Supreme Court has welcomed a total of almost 200,000 visitors and nearly 900 educational groups. It has been an international pioneer, as it is one of the few senior appeal courts providing press summaries of judgments, broadcasting of court proceedings and updates through social media.

Lord Neuberger stepped down as Master of the Rolls to take on the job as the UK's top judge, following the retirement of Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers.

Lord Neuberger said: "It is a great honour to have been asked to lead the UK Supreme Court, which is rightly respected throughout the world for the quality of its decision making. It has also been forging a reputation for accessibility and transparency, welcoming many visitors and providing public information about the work of the Justices and summaries of cases being heard.

"I welcome the opportunity to work with the other Justices of the Supreme Court, to continue developing relationships with colleagues around the UK, to serve all parts of the Kingdom, and to maintain the independence of the judiciary as one of the foundations of a stable, safe and prosperous society based on the rule of law."

Today's simple ceremony begins at 10.30am and involves Lord Neuberger taking the Judicial Oath and the Oath of Allegiance. The ceremony will be attended by the other Justices of the Supreme Court, also dressed in their black ceremonial brocade robes embroidered with gold, as well as friends, family and other guests.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

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Lord Hope, Deputy President of the Supreme Court, will conduct the ceremony, before Lord Neuberger shakes hands with each Justice in turn. He will then bow to them and they in turn will bow to him.

Following the brief ceremony, the Justices will form up in the Supreme Court's entrance hall ready to process over Broad Sanctuary to Westminster Abbey for the annual service to mark the beginning of the legal year in England and Wales.

The office of President of the Supreme Court is a wide-ranging one. In addition to his judicial responsibilities, which involve appeals to the UK Supreme Court and to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the President has leadership, ambassadorial and administrative responsibilities. In particular the President is responsible for leading discussions with the Lord Chancellor over policy and resource issues that affect the Supreme Court. He may also appear before Select Committees of the UK Parliament.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. The appointment was announced by [10 Downing Street](#) on 12 July 2012.
2. You are invited to send a reporter to the brief ceremony on the 1st October, which begins at 10.30am. If you wish to attend, please contact the UKSC press office (details below). The event will be live-streamed online (<http://news.sky.com/info/supreme-court>) and sent to the Millbank Broadcasting Centre as with court proceedings; we anticipate photographs will also be available on a pooled basis from the Press Association.
3. Photographers are invited to gather outside the Supreme Court for to capture Lord Neuberger and Lord Hope (Deputy President of the Supreme Court) leading the Justices over to the Abbey. The Justices will leave the Court at 11.00am and pause for a short while outside the main doors, before walking over to the service. This is a good opportunity to secure library shots/footage of all the Justices outside the Court.
3. The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom was established through the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and replaced the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords. It hears appeals on arguable points of law of the greatest public importance, for the whole of the United Kingdom in civil cases, and for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in criminal cases.