



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **SIR HOWARD DAVIES APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE LONDON LIBRARY**

The Trustees of the London Library - the world's largest independent lending library – announced today that they have appointed Sir Howard Davies as the Library's new Chairman. Sir Howard will succeed Bill Emmott, whose second term as Chairman comes to an end in November 2015.

Bill Emmott commented, "We are delighted to welcome Sir Howard Davies as our new Chairman. His outstanding and wide-ranging experience spanning business, government and culture will be invaluable in helping the London Library develop further its remarkable role in the UK's cultural and literary life."

Alongside his prominent career in finance and industry, Sir Howard has long been a leading voice for literature and the arts. From 2002–10 he was a Trustee of the Tate Gallery (where he served as interim Chair 2008-09), and was a member of the governing body of the Royal Academy of Music from 2004–13. In 2011 he joined the board of the Royal National Theatre. A frequent book reviewer and author, Sir Howard was Chairman of the Man Booker Prize jury in 2007. He joined the London Library as a member in 1981.

In his less literary moments he has also been Director-General of the CBI, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority, Director of the London School of Economics and independent Director of Morgan Stanley. He currently chairs the Airports Commission, is an independent Director of Prudential, and will become Chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland in September.

Sir Howard commented, "I was thrilled to be asked to chair the London Library, whose services I have enjoyed for many years. I look forward to doing what I can to ensure that future generations can benefit as much as I have done".

Sir Tom Stoppard, President of the London Library, concluded, "As we approach the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Library in 2016 and embark on the final stage of our capital campaign, we are delighted that Sir Howard has agreed to Chair the Board of Trustees to help steer us through these key moments in the Library's History. We are also extremely grateful to Bill Emmott for the sterling work he has done for the Library over the past six years."

**ENDS**

**Editor Notes**

**About the London Library**

The London Library was founded in 1841 by Thomas Carlyle and is now the world's largest independent lending library. Throughout its history it has enjoyed an association with an impressive range of members and supporters - from Charles Dickens, George Eliot and EM Forster, to Virginia Woolf, TS Eliot and Sir Tom Stoppard, the Library's current President.

Membership is open to all and members are free to browse and borrow from a remarkable collection of over one million books and periodicals covering over 2000 subjects.

Based in a unique 19th century building in the heart of London's St James's Square, The London Library serves members from across the country and is dedicated to the advancement of education, learning and knowledge.

Under a revision to the Library's Byelaws in 2014, the term of office of the Chairman of the Trustees is four years, renewable for a maximum of one further four-year term. Previously, the term was three years. The Chairman is selected by the board of Trustees, which is the Library's governing body, responsible for sustaining the Library, for setting its strategy and for ensuring it serves the public benefit as required by the Charity Commission.

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