



PRESS RELEASE

Society of Pension Consultants appoints new Chairman

The Society of Pension Consultants (SPC) has announced the appointment of Sir James Hodge as Chairman. He succeeds Sir David Miers who is stepping down after more than eight years in the role.

Sir James said of his new appointment: "I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve as SPC Chairman. The whole question of pensions is now at the centre of public debate - rightly so, because what is involved is of vital importance to everyone.

"The SPC has a reputation second-to-none among pensions professionals. I look forward to working with the excellent SPC team further to ensure that the key issues involved are presented to, and understood by, all stakeholders – including, crucially, Government. Because pension decisions taken today will resonate well into the future, it's vital that decision-takers are well-informed."

Sir James is a former British diplomat. His 37-year Foreign Office career concentrated on trade and economic issues. Much of his time overseas was spent in East Asia. As well as postings to Tokyo and Beijing, he served as Ambassador to Thailand and to Laos, and as Consul-General at Hong Kong and Macao.

Married, with three grown-up daughters, Sir James lives in London. A member of the Central Council of the Royal Over-Seas League and a Deputy Chairman of Asia House, he is also an Advisor to the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme*.

For further details

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A photograph of Sir James Hodge can be found at:
<http://www.spc.uk.com/htm/JamesHodge.jpg>

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

SPC is the representative body for the providers of the advice and services needed to establish and operate occupational and personal pension schemes and related benefits. Its Members

include accounting firms, solicitors, life offices, investment houses, investment performance measurers, consultants and actuaries, independent trustees and external pension administrators. SPC is the only body to focus on the whole range of pension related functions across the whole range of non-State provision, through such a wide spread of providers of the advice and services.

The vast majority of the 500 largest pension funds use the services of one or more of its Members. Many thousands of smaller funds and individuals also do so. SPC's growing membership collectively employs some 14,000 staff providing pension related advice and services.

Sir David Miers is a retired member of the Diplomatic Service and formerly Ambassador to The Netherlands, Greece and Lebanon.

*The Mansion House Scholarship Scheme exists to fund scholarships for students and young business executives from overseas to travel to the UK to study for a short course or undertake training or work experience in financial and related business activities for about a month. Awards are made at the personal discretion of the Lord Mayor and are limited to the countries which the Lord Mayor visits in any one year. Five scholars were awarded this scholarship during the Lord Mayor's visit to Tbilisi in March.

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