



PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE – 31 MAY 2019

## **CIVIL MEDIATION COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW CHAIR**

The Civil Mediation Council (CMC) is delighted to announce the appointment of Sir David Foskett as its next Chair, succeeding Sir Alan Ward who is stepping down from the role on 31 May 2019.

After six years in office Sir Alan said “It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as Chair. The position has enabled me to advance my passion for the use of mediation across all forms of dispute and to persuade all in those disciplines that there is more that unites us than divides us. I give my thanks to your very hard-working Officers and I wish Sir David and the CMC every success.”

In taking up his position as the CMC’s fifth Chair, Sir David said “I am delighted to have been invited to take over from Alan Ward as Chair of the Civil Mediation Council. As ever, Alan will be a hard act to follow and the Council is greatly in his debt for the hard work and support he has given it over the last six years. I acted as a mediator before my appointment as a judge and have been an active supporter of the process during my judicial career. I am looking forward to bringing that experience into the mediation process and, more importantly, with the assistance of my colleagues in the Council, to advancing the cause of mediation at a time when the need for the assisted resolution of disputes without recourse to litigation or other proceedings is more pressing than ever.”

Established in 2003 the CMC is the voice of mediation in the civil, commercial, community and workplace sphere in England and Wales. It comprises over 500 members including

mediation providers, independent mediators, academics, and professional bodies. A registered charity, the CMC is a neutral and independent body set up to promote the use of mediation to resolve conflict and educate the public about the benefits of mediation and other forms of dispute resolution.

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**Notes to Editors:**

Sir David Foskett was a judge of the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) between 2007 and 2019. He is an accredited mediator at 39 Essex Chambers and the author of the leading text on Compromise in England and Wales. He takes up his appointment as Chair of the CMC on 1 June 2019

Sir Alan Ward is a former judge of the High Court (Family Division) and Lord Justice of Appeal between 1995 and 2013. He became Chair of the CMC in 2013.

The CMC's previous Chairs have been Sir Brian Neill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Sir Henry Brooke.

The CMC has a Board of elected, co-opted and independent Directors and a Chief Executive Officer, Paul Adams.