



Immediate Release

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## LEASING FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES CHRIS SULLIVAN AS PATRON AND FIRST GOVERNOR

The Leasing Foundation is pleased to announce that Chris Sullivan, Chief Executive UK Corporate, RBS has agreed to be its first Governor and Patron.

Foundation director and CHP Consulting COO **Andrew Denton** says "we are delighted that Chris has agreed to be our first Governor and Patron. Chris started his career in leasing and has enormous knowledge of the sector as well as a continued affinity with our industry. He has been a leader in the Financial Services Industry for nearly 40 years and that experience and leadership will be invaluable in achieving the Foundation's vision. His track record in supporting philanthropic work, developing people and championing diversity, all key aspects of the Foundation's mission, speaks for itself. There could be no better first name on the team-sheet".

**Chris Sullivan** says "The Leasing Foundation is a terrific initiative that will bring enormous benefit to the sector in which I started my career. Asset Finance will gain real value from the research contribution of the Foundation. I am particularly excited about the diversity and skills development programmes; removing the barriers that prevent people fulfilling their potential has been a passion and a focus for me throughout my career. In my role as Patron I am looking forward to providing a focus for the charitable activity for which the leasing industry has always been recognised".



## Notes

The mission of the **Leasing Foundation** is to support the leasing and asset finance industry by providing focus and organisation for charitable activities, by performing rigorous, challenging and relevant research in areas that impact the industry and its future, and by seeking opportunities to sustain the industry by developing people in the industry. The Foundation is not a lobbying body or a trade association.

Programmes include: **LFGiving**, events that donate to a range of charities; **LFResearch**, an annual independent research report shared across the industry; **LFWomen in Leasing**, to bring together and encourage the development of women in the industry; **LFFuture Leaders**, to develop the new entrants to the industry; and **The Leasing Fellows**, an invitation-only community of the leading thinkers in leasing and asset finance.

**Chris Sullivan** was appointed Chief Executive of Corporate Banking Division in August 2009 which not only provides relationship management to SME and corporate customers in the UK but also manages Lombard, one of the UK's largest asset finance companies, RBS Invoice Finance, the largest provider of invoice finance solutions in the UK, and Transaction Services, the largest domestic Cash Management bank in the UK.

Chris' previous role was as Chief Executive of RBS Insurance (now Direct Line Group), which is number one in the UK for both home and motor policies. The division is made up of several well-known brands including Direct Line, Churchill and Privilege. Prior to this, Chris was Chief Executive of Retail Direct, Deputy Chief Executive of Retail Markets and Chief Executive of Lombard where he developed the business to a leadership position in the UK and Europe.

Chris had originally joined Lombard from school in 1975 and after initially working in a number of sales and sales management roles he was appointed head of Group Training and Development in 1991. The role reflected his sustained interest in leadership and management development and initiated his close working relationship with Professor Harry Schroder (Princeton). From there, his proven track record in growing businesses led to his appointment in 1993 as National Sales Director for Lombard Business Finance, moving on to become Managing Director and the aforementioned Chief Executive of Lombard.

Chris was recently recognised as the 2011 European Diversity Champion of the Year for the outstanding work he has done, championing equality, diversity and inclusion across the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. Chris is Governor of both Ashridge College and the ifs School of Finance, Governor and Patron of The Leasing Foundation, Chairman of both the Global Banking Alliance and The Inter-Alpha Group of Banks and a member of both the Westminster Abbey Investment Committee and CBI President's Committee.



FCIBS - Chris Sullivan earned his Fellowship of Chartered Institute of Bankers Scotland for his services to Scottish Banking in various roles throughout his career.

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