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NEWS RELEASE

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NATIONAL FRAUD STRATEGIC AUTHORITY APPOINTED

Dr Bernard Herdan CB has been appointed as Chief Executive of the new National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA), Baroness Scotland, the Attorney General, announced today.

He will take up the post on 1 April, succeeding interim chief executive Sandra Quinn, who is presently on secondment from the Financial Services Authority.

Dr Herdan will take forward the development of the NFSA, which became operational in October last year, in its crucial work in co-ordinating anti-fraud activities across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Supported by the NFSA, the Government will unveil a first national fraud strategy next month.

The NFSA is an executive agency of the Attorney General's Office.

Baroness Scotland said: "The leadership and support of the NFSA is fundamental to achieving successful delivery of the Fraud Review's recommendations and new national fraud strategy. The NFSA has a key role in ensuring co-operation in fighting the menace of fraud. Within months of its launch, the NFSA is already starting deliver on its key objective - to co-ordinate activity across the economy and criminal justice system so that we increase the effectiveness of deterring, detecting and sanctioning of fraudsters and achieve meaningful redress for their victims.

"I want to express my thanks to Sandra Quinn for her impressive stewardship of the NFSA's early days and her energy in bringing it into existence, and for developing the national fraud strategy that we will be launching in March. I would also like to thank the FSA for her loan, which is an example of the close partnership working which underpins our fight against fraud. I look forward to working closely with Bernard and the NFSA team in building on the excellent relationships which we have created across Government and business."

Bernard Herdan said: "I am honoured and delighted to be entrusted with taking forward the crucial work of the NFSA, spearheading the fight against fraud in this country. The aim is to make the UK a hostile environment for the fraudster and I will be committed to working with partners in the public and private sectors to make this a reality."

Sandra Quinn said: "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to help bring the NFSA into existence. I have always had a focus on delivery and the NFSA is already beginning to deliver on its mandate. I look forward to continuing to support its strategic direction and momentum and I wish Bernard and the team well in taking the NFSA from strength to strength."

Background Note

The appointment of Chief Executive of the NFSA was conducted in line with the Civil Service Commissioner's rules on civil service appointments by open and fair competition.

Bernard Herdan is currently interim chief executive of the Security Industry Authority and was previously chief executive of the UK Passport Service. He has also been a chief executive of the Criminal Records Bureau.

Bernard Herdan has also been Chief Executive of the Driving Standards Agency, and Commercial Director of the Met Office. He holds an MA from Cambridge, a Diploma in Management Studies and a Doctorate in Business Administration. He is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

Sandra Quinn joined the Attorney General's Office in May 2007 and is on secondment from the Financial Services Authority to establish the NFSA. She will continue her secondment for some months, contributing to the Attorney General's wider strategy development, including acting as interim in respect of the NFSA until Bernard Herdan's arrival.

The Government published a major review into arrangements for tackling fraud in July 2006 and a series of recommendations emerged including the establishment of the NFSA.

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For media enquiries contact the Attorney General's Office press office on 0207-271 2465 or e-mail press.office@attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk. Or call the NFSA press office on 0207-210 1129.