



BESTRUSTEES

An approach beyond reproach

PRESS RELEASE

Alan Pickering to join BESTrustees as Chairman

Alan Pickering will be leaving Watson Wyatt in January 2009 to succeed Charles Woodward as Chairman of BESTrustees. In addition to his role as Chairman, Alan hopes to take on a number of trusteeships on behalf of BESTrustees.

Alan Pickering commented, "Leaving a good job, even of your own volition, is always somewhat daunting. However, it's time for a fresh challenge." He went on to say "I have been advising trustees for most of my career so it's exciting that I'm about to become one. It must be every coach's dream to leave the touchline and join the team, so for me, this is a dream come true. Of course, Charles is a hard act to follow and I am sure that I will benefit from his wise counsel.

"I have enjoyed my 16 years with Watson Wyatt. Back in 1992, giving me a job was a bold move on the firm's part since I was by no means a chip off their old block. Watson Wyatt has given me opportunities that were beyond my wildest dreams. I shall forever cherish fond memories of colleagues and clients alike. Everyone has been kindness itself, particularly my long-standing confidant, Jenny Davie."

Clive Gilchrist, BESTrustees' Managing Director, said "I am delighted that Alan is joining us as Chairman. His wisdom and down-to-earth style will be an asset at our board meetings, and our clients will benefit from his decades of pensions experience. He will be an invaluable addition to our trusteeship team."

Mark Stewart, Head of the European Benefits Group at Watson Wyatt, said "Alan has made an invaluable contribution to Watson Wyatt and to the wider world of pensions during his 16 years with the firm. He is one of the most respected individuals in the industry and one of the nicest to work with. The regard in which he is held by colleagues and clients is extraordinary. We will miss Alan but recognise that this new role provides him with some new challenges which we know he will meet with his typical aplomb. He leaves with all our good wishes for the future."



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Commenting on the outgoing Chairman, Gilchrist said, "Charles was one of the first people ever to be appointed as an independent pension trustee, many years before he and I founded BESTrustees in early 1992. Charles has guided the firm through its first 16 years, during which we have grown from two to 24 professionals and have successfully established ourselves as a leader in the pensions industry. Without Charles's influence we could not have achieved what we have, we all wish him the best in his well-earned retirement."

Ends

Date: 15 August 2008

Press enquiries: BESTrustees - Clive Gilchrist tel: 020 7332 4100

Watson Wyatt – Bruce Wraight tel: 01737 273370

A photograph of Alan Pickering is available on request from Sally Ling at GR Communications tel: 020 7357 0070

A photograph of Charles Woodward is available to download from the BESTrustees website at www.bestrustees.co.uk

Attached: Notes to editors and biography of Alan Pickering



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Notes to Editors

About BESTrustees

BESTrustees plc is one of the UK's leading independent pension trustee companies. As an organisation, BESTrustees provides independent trustee services to more than 100 pension funds with well over half a million members. Several of its directors and associates also have personal appointments to the boards of other major pension schemes.

BESTrustees combines the talents of experienced individuals who are recognised leaders in the pensions arena with the security of a strong, well-established corporate trustee, to offer a superior quality service.

All its independent trustees have many years of pensions experience covering all aspects of trusteeship, investment, scheme administration, actuarial, accountancy and management issues.

About Alan Pickering CBE

Alan joined Watson Wyatt in June 1992 having spent the previous 20 years with the EETPU where he gained considerable experience in employee relations, pensions and personal finance. He is chairman of the Plumbing Industry Pension Scheme having been closely involved with the development of many other industry-wide schemes. In January 2005 he became a trustee of the Life Academy (Pre-Retirement Association) assuming the charity's chairmanship in November 2006.

Alan has had many high-profile appointments:

- Member of the Occupational Pensions Board from April 1991 until April 1997 serving as its Deputy Chairman during 1993
- Chairman of the National Association of Pensions Funds between May 1999 and May 2001
- Chairman of the European Federation for Retirement Provision (EFRP) from 2001 - 2004
- September 2001, asked by Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to lead a review into the possible simplification of the rules governing the operation of all forms of private pension provision. His report "A Simpler Way to Better Pensions" was published on 11 July 2002
- February 2005, appointed to the Board of The Pensions Regulator