

Judicial Communications Office

8 January 2021

APPOINTMENT TO COURT OF APPEAL AND FURTHER JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of **The Honourable Mr Justice Maguire as a Lord Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland**. He was sworn into office today at a ceremony in the Royal Courts of Justice.

The Lord Chief Justice announced two further judicial appointments from the existing complement of High Court Judges:

- **Mr Justice Huddleston has been appointed as President of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board (“HIA”)**, taking on this role from Mr Justice Colton. In a statement, Mr Justice Huddleston said:

“I am honoured to be asked by the Lord Chief Justice to be the President of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board. I will continue with the excellent work of my colleague, Mr Justice Colton, to ensure that the victims of historical institutional abuse in Northern Ireland receive compensation they deserve as quickly as possible.”

Leaving his role of President, Mr Justice Colton, said was privileged to have been responsible for establishing the HIA Redress Board acknowledged the work of the HIA staff, panel members, the Interim Advocate, victims’ and survivors’ groups, solicitors for the applicants, the institutions/orders and the Public Records Office:

“It is with thanks to their work that, despite the difficulties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the scheme envisaged by Sir Anthony Hart is now operating to provide victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse the compensation to which they are entitled.”

- **Mr Justice Colton J will take up the role of leading judicial review judge.**
- The Lord Chief Justice also announced the appointment of **Mr Justice McFarland as Presiding Coroner**. He takes over this role from Mr Justice Huddleston.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Sir Paul Maguire was called to the Bar in 1978 and became Queen’s Counsel in 2006. He has also lectured in public law at Queen’s University, Belfast and served as a part-time Chairman of the Employment Tribunals. He has practised extensively in the higher courts

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and has been involved in significant public law cases as Junior Crown Counsel and later as Senior Crown Counsel.

He was appointed as a High Court Judge in 2012. He was assigned as the Family Judge between 2012 and 2015, the Judicial Review Judge between 2015 and 2017 and as Judge in charge of the Queen's Bench List from 2017 to date. In April 2020 he became the Senior Judge of the Queen's Bench Division.

In 2017 he was appointed as a judicial Member of the Board of Visitors of Queen's University Belfast. He was elected an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn in October 2020.

ENDS

If you have any further enquiries about this or other court related matters please contact:

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