

Judicial Communications Office

16 June 2021

PRESS NOTICE

LADY CHIEF JUSTICE APPOINTMENT

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of The Honourable Mrs Justice Keegan as Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland. She will be sworn into office at the start of September 2021 at a ceremony in the Royal Courts of Justice.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Mrs Justice Keegan was appointed as a High Court Judge in October 2015.

Prior to becoming a judge, Mrs Justice Keegan, a Queen's University alumni, graduating with LLB Honours in 1993, was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1994 and became a Queen's Counsel in 2006.

During her career at the Bar Mrs Justice Keegan served as Vice Chair of the Bar of Northern Ireland, Chair of the Young Bar, Chair of the Family Bar Association, Chair of the Bar Charity Committee and she was a long standing member of the Bar Professional Conduct Committee.

Mrs Justice Keegan was appointed as Judge in Residence at Queen's University Belfast in November 2015 and currently remains in this post. She was also appointed as a member of the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) in April 2016 and is a current member of the Board. In April 2020 she was assigned as the Senior Family Judge and subsequently appointed Chair of the shadow Family Justice Board.

Mrs Justice Keegan was appointed as a Coroner in July 2017 and was Presiding Coroner for Northern Ireland from September 2017 to September 2020.

ENDS

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

Alison Houston
Judicial Communications Officer
Lord Chief Justice's Office
Royal Courts of Justice
Chichester Street
BELFAST
BT1 3JF

Telephone: 028 9072 5921
E-mail: Alison.Houston@courtsni.gov.uk