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## Next landmark reached as three more tribunals join new system

The next landmark for the streamlined, unified system for tribunals will be reached today as three more tribunals join the two-tier system.

The Financial Services and Markets Tribunal (FINSMAT) and the Pensions Regulator Tribunal (PRT) will transfer into the Upper Tribunal today, where they will become part of the Tax and Chancery Chamber. Separately, a completely new appeal route will be created with the establishment of an Environmental jurisdiction in the First-tier Tribunal.

FINSMAT and PRT are the latest existing tribunals to benefit from the process of bringing all the main tribunals into a unified tribunals system, set out in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 and designed to deliver an improved appeals process across a range of different jurisdictions.

The President of PRT and FINSMAT, Sir Stephen Oliver, will transfer into the new structure and work with the Tax and Chancery Chamber President, Mr Justice Warren, to ensure continuity of service and specialism.

Mr Justice Warren said:

“Our users should experience a seamless transition. The judges and members of FINSMAT and PRT have transferred in as judges and members assigned to the Tax & Chancery Chamber. Their experience and expertise will continue as a vital resource. I am able also to draw on the judicial power of the all of the judges of Chancery Division, four judges of the Court of Session and two Northern Irish High Court judges. The small dedicated team running the administration of the Chamber in Bedford Square have, for the last year, also been running FINSMAT and PRT. Users can expect the same excellent level of service which they have received in the past to continue. I look forward to my role in the exercise of this jurisdiction.”

Also today, a new appeal route will be created in the General Regulatory Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal to hear appeals against new civil sanctions made available for use by some Environmental Regulators – The Environment Agency and Natural England - as part of the Fairer and Better Environmental Enforcement (FBEE) project established by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Any appeals against these sanctions will now also be heard within the unified tribunals system.

22 former tribunal jurisdictions have now moved into chambers within the First tier of the new structure; and four Upper Tribunal Chambers have been created to deal with onward appeals and some specific types of initial appeal. FINSMAT and PRT represent the seventh and eighth jurisdictions to have transferred across this year.

**Ends**

#### **Note to editors**

The Tribunals Service is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Justice. It was created to establish a unified administration for the tribunals system, maintain their independence and ensure the public can exercise their legal rights efficiently and effectively.

The Financial Services and Markets Tribunal is an independent judicial body established under Section 132 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 which hears appeals arising from decision notices issued by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The Pensions Regulator Tribunal is an independent judicial body established under section 102 of the Pensions Act 2004. It hears appeals arising from decisions made by the Pensions Regulator, such as a financial penalty, an order winding up a scheme or an order freezing a scheme. The work of both jurisdictions will transfer into the Tax and Chancery Chamber of the Upper Tribunal.

To find out more about the Tribunals Service visit: [www.tribunals.gov.uk](http://www.tribunals.gov.uk).

#### **For further information please contact:**

Nathaniel Mumford

Senior Press Officer

T: 0203 334 6510

E: [Nathaniel.mumford@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nathaniel.mumford@justice.gsi.gov.uk)