



01/10

14 January 2010

### **Justice Minister unveils new East London tribunal venue**

Bridget Prentice has opened a new, purpose-built hearing centre in East London – the first of its kind for the Tribunals Service.

The ‘multi-jurisdictional’ venue, which has been in use since the end of last year, has been designed to accommodate a wide variety of tribunals dealing with different types of claims. Appeals relating to employment, social security and child support, and asylum support will now all be heard under one roof.

Justice Minister Bridget Prentice said: “Today is a significant milestone on the journey towards the creation of a modern, unified and customer-focused Tribunals Service.”

“The new-style centres are part of a long term improvement strategy which has been put in place by the Tribunals Service. These practical, operational changes are designed to complement the ‘behind-the-scenes’ policy and legal changes that have been steadily introduced since the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.”

Chief Executive of the Tribunals Service Kevin Sadler added: “Before we opened Anchorage House appeals were heard at various different venues, including Croydon and Stratford. This was neither efficient nor good for our customers. The new centre means we can be both more efficient with our resources and provide much better facilities. As well as having a new clear and consistent judicial tribunal structure this is hard evidence of our commitment to a more effective and efficient approach to the way in which we provide services to our customers.”

**Ends**