

ICSA's former Chief Executive awarded OBE

20 June 2008: John Ainsworth, the former chief executive of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) has been awarded an OBE for services to business in the Queen's birthday honours list.

John, who retired in October 2007, was ICSA's chief executive for nearly 18 years and led the Institute through some substantial periods of change. Today, the Institute, which is the qualifying body for company secretaries, has over 36,000 members in over 70 countries. John did much to promote the role of the Chartered Secretary, whose job it is to advise the chairman and the board on all legal and corporate governance issues. Chartered Secretaries are finding themselves increasingly in demand at a time when crimes such as money laundering and fraud are at an all time high.

Recognising the growing importance of corporate governance, John set up the ICSA's policy department in 1990. During his tenure, the Institute contributed to the Myners review of institutional investment, the Cadbury report and the late Sir Derek Higgs' revision of the Combined Code. The department now works closely with the government and other regulatory bodies in the corporate and not-for-profit sectors providing guidance on a wide range of corporate governance issues.

Tom Morrison, ICSA's President comments:

'We are delighted that John's leadership and dedication to the work of the Institute has been rewarded in this way. In these turbulent times, high standards in corporate governance are critical and we look forward to continuing his legacy by providing considered guidance to organisations across the globe'

Ends

For further information please contact the ICSA press office on 020 7612 7062 or pressoffice@icsa.co.uk

Editors notes

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) is the qualifying body for company secretaries and a leading authority on corporate governance. It publishes guidance notes and best practice guides and through its subsidiaries provides events, information and training, boardroom performance evaluation and dedicated software. The ICSA has 36,000 members worldwide and is represented in over 70 countries.

