

E-ALERT | Global Anti-Corruption

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NEW DIRECTOR TAKES THE HELM AT UK SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE

"The SFO is here to stay. It is and will remain a key crime fighting agency targeting top-end fraud, bribery and corruption. We will play our part in maintaining in the national interest a level playing field for investors and the business community. We will work cooperatively with others in the emerging counter-fraud landscape. We will press for all the tools necessary to maximise our impact. The SFO will be tough but approachable. I am delighted to take on the leadership of the agency at this exciting and challenging time. There is much to be done."

David Green CB QC, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, 23 April 2012

On 23 April 2012, **David Green QC** began his four year appointment as director of the UK Serious Fraud Office ("SFO"). His appointment was announced by the Attorney General, Dominic Grieve QC MP, on 16 December 2011. David Green succeeds Richard Alderman, who began his tenure as director of the SFO in April 2008.

David Green is a seasoned barrister who has defended and prosecuted serious economic crime cases over a 25 year career at the criminal Bar. He also has experience of leading two prosecutions agencies. He was appointed the first director of the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office ("RCPO") in April 2005, and when the RCPO was merged with the Crown Prosecution Service ("CPS") in January 2010, became director of the CPS Central Fraud Group. He returned to the Bar in April 2011.

David Green already has signaled his intention to make the SFO "tough but approachable." It is likely that the new director will continue the SFO's policy of guiding, assisting and engaging with responsible corporates and senior individuals, but will instill a more hard edged prosecutorial approach at the SFO than has been the case in the past. It also is expected that, under the Green regime, the SFO's efforts at combating "top-end fraud" will be given as much prominence as its role in tackling bribery and other forms of corruption.

David Green also is likely to continue to champion the introduction into UK law of US style plea arrangements, including Deferred Prosecution Agreements ("DPAs"). The UK Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, is known to support their introduction, and the UK Ministry of Justice has confirmed that it is "developing proposals for deferred prosecution agreements to tackle corporate crime more effectively." A public consultation is expected to begin in June 2012.

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