

15 July 2010

Alan Thomson to become Chairman of Hays plc

Hays plc, the leading global specialist recruitment Group, is pleased to announce that Alan Thomson will be joining the Board as a non-executive director on 1 October 2010, and will become Chairman following the Annual General Meeting on 10 November 2010 when Bob Lawson, the present Chairman, will retire from the Board.

Alan Thomson is currently Chairman of Bodycote plc, the international provider of thermal processing services, the Senior Independent Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee at Johnson Matthey plc, a speciality chemicals company and a world leader in advanced materials technology, and a non-executive director of Alstom SA, the French power generation, rail transportation and electrical transmission equipment manufacturer. Alan was Group Finance Director of Smiths Group plc between 1995 and 2006.

Bob Lawson, Chairman, commented:

“Whilst I am sad to be retiring from Hays now is the right time to hand over the reins. After successfully navigating through the recession, Hays is returning to growth with a stronger, broader based and more efficient business than ever before.

After a systematic search for the right candidate, I am delighted that the Board has selected Alan Thomson as my successor. Having spent time with him, I can see that he will bring with him a passion for business, vitality and considerable experience of global businesses, making him an excellent fit with Hays.”

Alan Thomson commented: “I am delighted to be joining Hays. This is a business with a strong track record operating in a market that presents substantial future growth opportunities across the globe. I look forward to working with the Board and the shareholders to continue the success of the Group.”

Alistair Cox, Chief Executive, commented: “on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Bob for his considerable contribution over his 12 years with the Group. Bob not only oversaw the transformation of Hays from being a conglomerate into a pure-play specialist recruitment business, he was also instrumental in developing the business from being a principally UK business into an international group which now operates in 28 countries and generates the majority of its fees from outside the UK. He leaves the business in excellent shape and we wish him every success in the future.

“I am delighted to welcome Alan Thomson to Hays. He has had a long and successful career across a variety of sectors and will bring considerable experience to the Board. I look forward to working with him as we continue our focus on developing the international business and strengthening our position in the UK.”

No further information is required to be disclosed in relation to Alan Thomson pursuant to LR 9.6.13 R.