

MISS SOPHIA LAMBERT, CB

Resident in the Borough and born in 1943. Has lived in the Borough since birth.

EDUCATION

Day schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

University of Paris – Degree in Politics, Economics and Russian.

London School of Economics and Political Science – B.Sc Econ.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE

After a career in HM Diplomatic Service and the Home Civil Service, I am well used to working in a political environment and to monitoring strict confidentiality. At various points in my career in the Civil Service, I had a lot of dealings with local government, so I am pretty familiar with how it works. I have worked closely with Ministers of both major political parties, and I have had charge of larger numbers of civil servants, many dealing directly with the public. I have also sat on the Boards of several public quangoes. This has all given me an acute appreciation of the need for high standards in public life as well as experience in promoting such standards.

I have been responsible for devising or overseeing the devising of complaints procedures, both within my own organisation (where we operated various licensing procedures) and for quangoes on whose Boards I sat. In the course of my Civil Service career, I have also played a personal role in deciding complaints and appeals. In my current role as a Lay Member of the Council of the Inns of Court, I sit on the Tribunals and Panels that hear complaints of professional misconduct against barristers, take decisions on them and impose penalties (including disbarment in the most serious cases).

APPOINTMENTS

Lay Member of the Council of the Inns of Court.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2003 to date: self-employed.

1998-2003: Director of Wildlife and Countryside (and Flood) Defence from 2001) in first the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and then (following a post-electoral reorganisation, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

1993-98: Director of Road and Vehicle Safety and Head of Traffic Area Network, in first the Department of Transport and then (following a post-electoral reorganisation) the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions. Ex-office Board member of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and other licensing and testing agencies.

1985-1993: Department of Transport, as Head successively of International Division, Channel Tunnel Division, and Metropolitan Public Transport Division.

1982 – 1985: Cabinet Office, in the European Secretariat.

1966-1983: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Postings in New York (Mission to the United Nations); British Embassy Bonn; and British Embassy Pretoria. Also spells in London in the South-East Asian, Western European and European Communities Departments.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Walking, gardening, local history, urban architecture and current affairs.