

# NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate release

## **Action for Blind People appoints new Chair of Trustees**

National charity Action for Blind People is delighted to announce a new Chair of Trustees. John Spence OBE replaces interim Chair, Judy Smith. John, who is visually impaired himself, brings extensive business experience in the banking world, as well as long-standing commitment to the voluntary sector.

A graduate of Harvard Business School, during his professional career John has held directorships at Lloyds TSB, the DTI Capital Enterprise Board, HM Revenue & Customs and chaired committees for the British Bankers Association. His charity work has also been honoured, with an MBE for service to community, OBE for services to charity & Business in the Community, The Prince of Wales's Business Ambassadors Award and a Round Table, GB & Ireland, Founders Award for lifetime contribution

John was recruited as prospective Chairman during an external search during 2007. He became a Trustee in September and has since attended several Board meetings and spent time getting to know Action and some of its people. His energy and commitment to Action has already been well demonstrated.

Judy Smith, who held the Chair on an interim basis and continues as a Trustee, said: "Action is delighted to welcome John who brings a valuable mix of commercial success, excellent connections and commitment to the voluntary sector. I know he

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will bring new insights and energy to our charity.”

John Spence OBE said: “It is a privilege to take the Chair of this dynamic, innovative and fast-growing charity dedicated to helping blind and partially sighted people all over the country to achieve their aspirations. I am delighted to have joined and am honoured to take on the role of Chair. I look forward to working closely with Trustees and the management team and hope that I can add value to the work of this excellent organisation.”

Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation ensuring 24,000 blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. Our experts work with a further 14,000 people who support blind and partially sighted people, including family, friends and partner organisations.

**-Ends-**

For further media information please contact Action’s press office on 020 7635 3027 or 07739 819954 or email: [petra.maxwell@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:petra.maxwell@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

## Notes to editors:

- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. Contact Action for Blind People’s National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666 or [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)
- Action for Blind People is breaking down barriers that prevent visually impaired people from achieving the same opportunities as sighted people.

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- If abbreviating “Action for Blind People”, please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.