

Immediate Release:

Estelle Morris Becomes Patron Of The e-Learning Foundation

April 2 2008: The Rt Hon Baroness Morris has become the Patron of the e-Learning Foundation, a charity set up to ensure that all school children in the UK have home access to technology for their studies.

Baroness Morris has been involved in the work of the e-Learning Foundation since 2003 when she took up the position of Chair of the Foundation. She stepped down as Chair in 2006, but has continued to sit on the board of trustees.

“I am delighted to take up the role of patron of this extraordinary organisation that relies on a small team, working to ensure that children in the UK have home access to technology to succeed in their studies and reach their true potential,” commented Baroness Estelle Morris. “We must ensure that the disadvantaged children in our society do not lose out from the digital divide”.

Lord Mitchell, who took over as Chair of the e-Learning Foundation, which he originally helped to set up added: “I am delighted to welcome Estelle as our patron. Her passion and commitment to education and the home use of ICT to provide equal opportunities for young learners is well documented”.

“She is acutely aware of the challenges we face. Good access to ICT for young people for their education should be a right, not a privilege and the Foundation is determined that every child in this country has the same opportunity to succeed in their studies”.

“We are honoured that Estelle Morris has accept the role of patron of our organisation,” commented Valerie Thompson, chief executive of the e-Learning Foundation. “She has a huge wealth of experience and true commitment to our cause”.

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pressrelease



Notes for Editors:

Baroness Morris of Yardley's biography:

Rt Hon Baroness Morris of Yardley spent almost 20 years in the education sector before she became an MP in 1992. She began her career as a teacher in an inner city, multi racial school in Coventry before being elected MP for Birmingham, Yardley. She held a number of positions linked to education in Government both in Opposition and as Secretary of State for Education & Skills (DfES) from 2001-2002. In 2003 she became Minister for the Arts. On 13 May 2005 it was announced that she would be created a life peer, and the title was gazetted as Rt Hon Baroness Morris of Yardley, of Yardley in the County of West Midlands, on 15 June 2005.

Lord Mitchell's biography:

Lord Mitchell is a life Baron. He is a graduate of London University and holds an MBA from Graduate School of Business, Columbia University New York. Until 2007 he was Chairman of Syscap plc, Europe's leading independent IT finance, leasing, rental and asset management service provider. He has been pivotal in developing relationships between government and the IT industry to enable them to understand their individual and capabilities.

About the e-Learning Foundation

The e-Learning Foundation was launched in 2001, to ensure that every schoolchild in the UK should have home access to learning technologies when and where they want to learn.

The Foundation, a registered charity, aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all children, irrespective of their background, can have the same access to technology for learning at home as their better off peers. The estimated cost of this runs into £billions, so unlikely to be provided by Government alone.

The Foundation is funded through the public, private and third sector in the form of Government grants, commercial sponsorship, grants and donations.

Interviews available on request. PR Contact: Jan Howells at the e-Learning Foundation on 01932 796036 or e-mail jan@e-learningfoundation.co.uk