

Media Announcement  
July 15, 2016

## New Government brings opportunity for trade to campaign on key issues, says LAPADA

CEO Rebecca Davies aims to give trade a louder voice in Whitehall

LAPADA have pledged to do all they can to ensure that key members of the new Cabinet are fully briefed on matters that top the British art market's agenda.

Chief Executive Rebecca Davies is keen to forge new relationships with freshly appointed department heads who hold sway on issues such as tax, ivory, international agreements governing cultural property, regulation and compliance.

"The art and antiques industry finds itself the focus of far more public attention and scrutiny these days than it ever has before," she said, "and it is the job of trade associations like LAPADA to make sure their members are properly represented at the highest levels of government so that their voices are heard."

"What can make life more difficult for those lobbying for the industry is that key issues often fall between two or more government departments, with understanding of how the trade works and what the issues are watered down."

"Ivory is a classic example of this," she explained. "DEFRA oversee CITES rules because of the wildlife interest, but when it comes to antiques both the Culture and Business departments have influence over the trade. We want to make sure that genuine trade concerns are taken into account in debates of this kind, both directly where appropriate and via the British Art Market Federation, of which LAPADA is a leading member, when that is the most suitable vehicle."

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark has been promoted to Business Secretary, while Karen Bradley, MP for Staffordshire Moorlands, formerly a junior minister in the Home Office, becomes Culture Secretary. Former leadership contender Andrea Leadsom, who represents the constituency of South Northamptonshire and until now was a Minister of State for Energy, takes over as Environment Secretary.

"Each of these new secretaries of state brings a fresh eye to their roles, as well as experience that could prove useful in understanding issues that might affect the trade," said Davies.

"For instance, in her previous role Karen Bradley was responsible for the prevention of wildlife crime as well as developing the crime and policing knowledge hub. Both of those remits could help in forging policy linked to the art and antiques industry, firstly on CITES and secondly on the funding and operations for the Art & Antiques Unit at Scotland Yard, as well as communication links between regional police forces."

Davies is particularly concerned that scarce resources among trade representatives and government departments are not wasted or misdirected in forming policy.

“Our clearest message to the new secretaries of state and their departments is that we have a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise, and we are more than happy to share it with them in the pursuit of better understanding and the shaping of appropriate policy moving forwards.

“Thanks to the excellent support of individuals such as our chairman, Lord Chadlington and president, the Earl Howe, we have maintained strong ties with parliament and the Government.

“We are already developing a sustainable strategy for strengthening those ties further so that our industry’s voice is heard loud and clear among all those clamouring for the new administration’s attention.”

Ends

### **Notes to Editors**

**LAPADA the Association of Art & Antiques Dealers** is the largest society of professional art and antiques dealers in the UK. It is a trusted resource for private collectors and the art & antiques trade in the UK and 16 other countries around the world. Established in 1974 it boasts 550 worldwide members, who are experts in their fields, with specialisms ranging from fine art, jewellery and furniture to contemporary works, sculpture and ceramics. Due to the Association’s strict Code of Practice, clients are offered total reassurance when purchasing from a LAPADA member. LAPADA offers a referral service for any member of the public looking for a trusted dealer in a specific area, who is seeking quality and assurance of authenticity. It also offers industry advice and lobbies on issues affecting its members and good practice in the art and antiques trade. In 2015 LAPADA launched a new website, the leading online marketplace for sourcing authentic art and antiques from trusted LAPADA-accredited dealers. [lapada.org](http://lapada.org)