



ECCLESIASTICAL ANNOUNCES REGIONAL OFFICE RESTRUCTURE

Specialist insurer Ecclesiastical is announcing plans to reorganise its regional network:

- Offices in Birmingham, Manchester and Gloucester will expand to become major service centres.
- Ecclesiastical's network of home-based development underwriters will grow, increasing to 20 from 18 immediately. This number will include new Regional Development Manager roles with a key sales focus.
- The entire network will have an increased focus on sales, led by newly-appointed Broker Sales Director Ian Wainwright.

As a result of this reorganisation:

- New Regional Directors will be appointed to manage the three offices in Birmingham, Manchester and Gloucester.
- New Regional Development Manager roles will be appointed to drive sales in all areas of the country.
- Ecclesiastical's offices in Newcastle and Eastbourne will close in Quarter 2 2009.

All of the changes are planned to be in place for Quarter 2 2009.

Broker Sales Director Ian Wainwright said: "These changes are designed to make Ecclesiastical fit for the future. We're increasing capacity to ensure our service is always market-leading; strengthening our focus on locally-based underwriters with the authority to make decisions; and working to shout about what Ecclesiastical has to offer."

Steve Wood, Managing Director of Ecclesiastical's insurance business in the UK & Ireland, said: "We've worked very hard over the past few years to establish ourselves as the best insurer for care, charity, education and heritage business. But we can't stand still. If we want to fulfil our ambitions to grow, we need to ensure we have the right infrastructure and setup for the future. This reorganisation strengthens everything we already do so well, and at the same time it will help us target more specialist business and improve the service we provide to brokers."

Ecclesiastical's Birmingham office has already moved into new premises in the heart of the city centre. Ecclesiastical's Manchester office will re-locate to new premises to accommodate the expansion. The Gloucester office will relocate when Ecclesiastical moves its head office to new premises in 2011.

About Ecclesiastical's commitment to the broker market:

- Three quarters of Ecclesiastical's general insurance business is through brokers.
- Ecclesiastical has been providing tailor-made policies and service for specialist markets for 120 years.
- Independent research has shown that brokers rate Ecclesiastical best for charity, education, care and heritage business.

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Notes to editors:

About Ecclesiastical

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of charities, schools, the care sector, churches and historic buildings. Founded in 1887 to provide insurance for the Anglican Church, it now offers a wide range of commercial insurances, as well as home, travel and wedding insurance, selling through brokers and direct. Ecclesiastical also provides a range of financial services through IFAs and direct, including a range of ethically-screened investment funds.