

**EXHIBIT AJB1**

**Press Announcement on Alastair Brett leaving Times Newspapers**

Alastair Brett has decided to step down as Legal Director of TNL so that he can finish a book, spend more time with his wife and two young children and set up his own Media Law Consultancy as a solicitor and freelance writer.

Mr Brett has worked for Times Newspapers Ltd for 33 years. He has been at the forefront of defamation reform, recently helping Lord Lester with his Defamation Bill and Sir Charles Gray with an Early Resolution Procedure Group report.

News International is extremely grateful for Mr Brett's huge contribution to The Times and Sunday Times over the years and it wishes him well in his future.

**FORM OF REFERENCE**

[DATE]

Times Newspapers Limited  
1 Virginia Street  
London  
E98 1XY

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Alastair Brett**

Thank you for your inquiry concerning Alastair Brett, until recently the Legal Manager of Times Newspapers Ltd.

It is not the policy of News International Ltd or Times Newspapers Ltd to furnish detailed references for former employees but in this case I can confirm that I have known Alastair for over 25 years and we have been close colleagues since I became Editor of The Sunday Times in 1994 and he became head of the legal department at Times Newspapers in 1999. He has worked at Times Newspapers Ltd, the publisher of The Times and Sunday Times for 33 years, under no less than 11 different editors. During this time he has been a constant source of energy and a dedicated advocate of press freedom. The pre-publication advice he has given to me as Editor and to all departments at The Sunday Times has been invaluable. He has constantly striven to get articles of public interest and importance into print, while at the same time not leaving the newspaper vulnerable to unwarranted or indefensible claims. I can therefore recommend Alastair as a libel lawyer of the highest integrity.

This reference is of course furnished in strictest confidence and without legal responsibility on my own behalf or that of Times Newspapers Ltd or News International Ltd.

Yours faithfully