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LOCAL COURT FINANCE OFFICER WINS NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The outstanding work of Mary Appleton, Finance Officer, City of Salford Magistrates' Court has been recognised at the first Her Majesty's Courts Service National Awards ceremony in Birmingham on Tuesday 28 March.

Mary won the individual award for skills and development.

She won for her work ensuring that staff and magistrates understand the finance procedures that apply as a result of the changes brought about by the merger in 2005 of the Crown and County Courts with the Magistrates' Courts. Mary also liaises with suppliers to ensure the Court receives value for money. She is noted for her helpfulness, tact and diplomacy.

Mary said:

"I was really delighted to receive this award, both from a personal point of view and on behalf of Salford Magistrates' Court. All the staff are really pleased for me and this award is for them as much as for me because we have all pulled together."

Richard Knott, Area Director said:

"I'm very pleased for Mary that she won this award. There have been changes over the last 12 months and she has ensured that those changes have been

effectively communicated to magistrates, staff and suppliers.”

Sir Ron De Witt, HMCS Chief Executive Officer, said:

“I am delighted to reward the hard work of Mary. This honour marks HMCS’ first anniversary. From my visits to courts, I have come away with a real and abiding impression that everything we do is for the public – the victim, witness, juror, defendant and plaintiff – they come first. Building the service around their needs is what defines us and establishes our reputation.”

NOTE

Her Majesty's Courts Service brought together, on 1st April 2005, 42 independent magistrates' courts committees and the Court Service into one single organisation for the first time. It is an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA). Its purpose is to deliver justice effectively and efficiently to the public. It is responsible for the management of the civil, family and criminal courts in England and Wales.

The photograph accompanying this press release is of Mary Appleton receiving her award in Birmingham on 28 March from Sir Ron De Witt, Chief Executive of Her Majesty’s Courts Service.