

General Sir David Richards assumes the appointment of Chief of the Defence Staff today from Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup who is retiring after four-and-a-half years in the post and after more than 40 years service in the Armed Forces.

Also today Ursula Brennan takes up the appointment of Permanent Under Secretary. She takes over from Sir Bill Jeffrey who retires after five years in the role and close to 40 years in the Civil Service.