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RESIGNATION: OFSTED NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

In June 2008, Paul Blackburn, Senior Vice President Financial Controller at GlaxoSmithKline was appointed as a Non Executive Board Member of OFSTED, the official body for inspecting schools in the UK. Mr Blackburn was selected for his breadth of financial experience and his willingness to put his skills and knowledge at the disposal of OFSTED. He was appointed alongside three other representatives from UK companies http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0107

Following unfounded allegations made directly to OFSTED and subsequently reported in the media, Mr Blackburn has resigned as a member of the Board at OFSTED's request.

Paul Blackburn said: "At OFSTED's request, I have resigned. This is very disappointing for me personally and I hope it will not dissuade others currently working in companies to consider roles with public bodies. I wish to make it clear that this decision should in no way give credibility to the spurious allegations which have been reported regarding GlaxoSmithKline. These are entirely without foundation and have been previously addressed by the company. Rather, it is my desire that the work of OFSTED continue unhindered by negative media attention."

Enquiries:

UK Media enquiries:

Philip Thomson	(020) 8047 5502
Claire Brough	(020) 8047 5502
Alice Hunt	(020) 8047 5502
Gwenan White	(020) 8047 5502