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ROBERT CULSHAW
Director Americas and Overseas Territories
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Robert Nicholas Culshaw took up his appointment as Director on 31 March 2003.

Born in 1952 in London. Double First and Major University scholarship in Classics at King's College, Cambridge. He joined the Foreign Office in 1974, serving on the Southern Africa desk. Following language training at the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies in Lebanon and Jordan (1975-77), he was posted as Third Secretary at Muscat (1977-79), then as Second Secretary at Khartoum (1979-80).

From 1980 to 1984 he was First Secretary (Political Affairs) at the British Embassy in Rome, before returning to the Foreign Office in London (1984-88) where he served as a Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe). In 1988 he was posted to Athens as Deputy Head of Mission and Consul General. He returned to London in 1993 where he served as Foreign Affairs Spokesman and Head of News. He was Minister-Counsellor (Trade and Transport) at the British Embassy Washington from 1995 to 1999. He was Consul General in Chicago from 1999 to 2003, covering the thirteen states of the Midwest.

Robert Culshaw is married to Elaine, who is a teacher of Classics. They have one son, Robin, aged 12. Robert speaks Arabic, Italian, Modern Greek and French. In 1979 The Queen made him a member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Member of the Institute of Linguists, and a Churchill Fellow of Westminster College, Fulton. He is also on the American Board of The Friends of Leonard Cheshire, a charity helping people with disabilities around the world. His hobbies include skiing, singing, poetry, and losing at chess.

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