



*Setting standards
in analytical science*

First female scientist appointed Deputy Government Chemist

Selvarani Elahi takes over the role of Deputy Government Chemist

07 June 2011, UK - LGC, the international market leader in analytical, forensic and diagnostic services and reference standards, announces the appointment of Selvarani Elahi as Deputy Government Chemist. She becomes the first female scientist to hold this title in the UK and takes over the role from Ian Lumley, on his retirement. She will now act as deputy for Dr Derek Craston, who has been the UK's Government Chemist since 1 June 2008.

In addition to her new role, Elahi retains her current position as Head of Consumer Protection Services at LGC. Elahi has over 20 years' experience of the analysis of food and agriculture samples to establish their composition, particularly for contaminants, additives, nutrients and to assess their authenticity for both the private and public sectors.

Discharged on behalf of the UK department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the role of the Government Chemist is a State appointment, agreed under the devolved authorities of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Government Chemist title has been in place since 1911, with a remit to discharge the statutory function of referee analyst to resolve disputes over analytical measurements, particularly in relation to food regulatory enforcement. The Government Chemist also takes an active involvement in promoting analytical science and technology, and provides advice to Government and the wider community on policy, standards and regulation.

On her appointment, Selvarani Elahi said: *"I am extremely pleased to be taking up the post of Deputy Government Chemist and I look forward to supporting Dr Derek Craston in his role as the UK's Government Chemist. The Government Chemist function is fundamental to providing an independent voice for sound analytical measurement science and preventing miscarriages of justice. As well as resolving disputes, a key aspect of the role is preventing disputes from arising by conducting salient project work and giving well informed advice to stakeholders. My experience of the analysis of food and animal feed will help me to discharge my duties in this important statutory role.*

- Ends -

Notes to editors:



For a high resolution photograph of Selvarani Elahi, please contact gavin.dallas@lgcgroup.com

About LGC

LGC (www.lgcgroup.com) is an international science-based company and market leader in analytical, forensic and diagnostic services and reference standards. LGC operates in a variety of markets which underpin the safety, health and security of the public and the regulation of industry, for both public and private sector clients.

LGC operates internationally through four divisions - LGC Forensics, LGC Genomics, LGC Standards and LGC Science & Technology. The latter includes specialist laboratories delivering contracts for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and supports LGC's designated role as the UK's National Measurement Institute for chemical and bioanalytical measurement.

Our operations are extensively accredited to international quality standards such as ISO 17025. With headquarters in Teddington, South West London, the LGC Group employs ca 1,400 staff in 29 laboratories and centres globally. Privatised in 1996 and now majority-owned by funds managed by Bridgepoint, LGC was founded almost 170 years ago as the Laboratory of the Government Chemist - a statutory function maintained by LGC today.

About the Government Chemist role

LGC and the Government Chemist (www.governmentchemist.org.uk) role date back to the establishment of the Laboratory of the Board of Excise in 1842. The UK National Measurement Office now underpins the role by funding a programme of work at LGC, and, with the help of an external working group, ensures that the Government Chemist continues to provide an independent voice for sound analytical measurement science. In recent years, laboratory casework has focused on samples of food and animal feed. The Government Chemist also develops advice on the wide range of science-based policy, standards and regulations affecting the UK.

Under terms agreed when LGC was privatised, the Government Chemist is appointed in open competition by BIS and is required to be a director of LGC, which is contracted to carry out the necessary scientific work in support of the Government Chemist function.

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