ANDREW RENNISON

Pro-Chancellor,

Andrew Rennison holds two key national roles: Forensic Science Regulator and Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Previously he was a Director with the Gambling Commission, following a distinguished career with the Police service in which he rose to high rank. He has given much encouragement to this University's research and teaching in forensic sciences.

Andrew followed the A-level entry route into the Police and served for 30 years before retiring as a Detective Chief Superintendent. Some of his postings foreshadowed his later career. In the late '80s he was seconded to an independent commission investigating corruption in Hong Kong, and during his last police appointment he managed the Yorkshire Police Scientific Support Unit. Along the way, in 1994 he was awarded an MSc in Investigative Psychology.

Following his retirement Andrew was a director with the Gambling Commission and played a leading part in establishing it as the regulator of the British gambling industry. This involved the development of policies to pave the way for licensing, regulation, investigation and the prosecution of offences under the Gambling Act. The government of the day was unwilling to believe that there were problems such as money laundering in the gambling industry, but sceptics have since acknowledged that the Commission was right in this regard.

Andrew Rennison was appointed as the first Regulator of Forensic Sciences in 2008, with a brief to set and maintain high scientific standards in this industry. In forensic science the quality and integrity of evidence is vital. If scientific processes are inconsistent, the evidence they produce is unreliable and unconvincing in the courts. Simple human errors can lead to cross-contamination of evidence and miscarriages of justice. While these are fortunately rare, they give rise to public concern. Andrew approaches this by encouraging organisations to manage human error through open, honest, collaborative cultures. He has orchestrated leading scientists – brilliant but highly independent as they are – to agree guidelines for forensic processes; and then persuaded practitioners in forensic laboratories, traditionally reluctant to work together, to use the guidelines. All this was achieved not by using statutory powers but through persuasion and consensus. No wonder this Regulator's role is regarded as one of the toughest high-profile jobs of its kind anywhere.

In September this year Andrew Rennison was appointed the UK's first Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Since 2010, as interim Regulator, he worked with police and senior judges to support the better use of CCTV images as evidence in the courts. This was particularly important following last year's urban riots. He also oversees technical developments such as digital analysis of data and automated facial recognition, and he seeks to educate the public, working with local authorities and industry so that CCTV

cameras are seen as a force for good and not an object of suspicion about surveillance. As Andrew has said, 'CCTV has proved hugely valuable in public safety and catching criminals but a balance must be struck between keeping people safe and protecting privacy'.

Today BU recognises the immense and varied achievements of Andrew Rennison, and the public benefits of his work. We also acknowledge with gratitude the support which he has given to our School of Applied Sciences, where he works with its staff and facilities and regularly talks to students.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Andrew Rennison, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.