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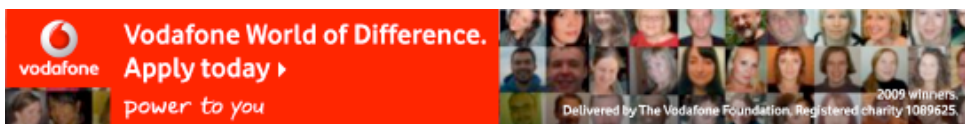
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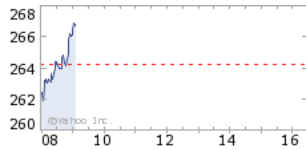
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Dashwood, 21:41, Friday 12 November 2010

Readers worried what Gary Hoffman might get up to on his six months in "the garden" after leaving Northern Rock, worry no more.

For the man who gave up £500,000 after announcing his plans to jump ship to new bank NBNK in May 2011 is, it transpires, a non-executive director on the board of Banque Havilland of Luxembourg.

Eagle-eyed readers will remember that that is the same bank that David "Spotty" Rowland and son Jonathan bought in 2009, and was paid a visit by the Luxembourg police in February of this year.

The private bank, which caters to high net-worth individuals and has a balance sheet of 1.3bn (£1.1bn), was raided in connection with the fact that it used to be own by Kaupthing, the Icelandic bank.

Here's hoping Hoffman uses the rest of his time off just as wisely.

A vacancy in need of a quick replacement

Speaking of bank moves, the leading Treasury official on the board of UK Financial Investments (UKFI), the organisation charged with managing the state's holdings in the British banking industry, has stepped down ahead of taking a new job at the Ministry of Defence.

Louise Tulett, the Treasury's group director of finance, procurement and operations, quietly stepped down from the board of UKFI at the end of last month and has yet to be replaced as her successor is still to be named.

Tulett had sat on the board of UKFI since the early days of the body's creation in early 2009, charged with representing the Treasury views. UKFI chose to keep quiet on her departure. But surely the Treasury will be fairly swift to replace her, given the coming changes in the industry at the hands of the Independent Commission on Banking?

Nomura raffle winners take flight

Keen to show off its sparkling headquarters at One Angel Lane in the City, Nomura gathered some of Fleet Street's finest for its annual media dinner on Thursday evening.

Lord Marshall, chairman of the bank's international arm, welcomed the gathered scribes, and made reference to the night's charity raffle £7,060 was raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust through ticket sales and Nomura's matching the prize for which was a first-class flight for two to New York.

As former chief executive of British Airways (LSE: [BAY.L - news](#)), Lord Marshall said he trusted the flights were with his former employer.

Unfortunately, the lucky winner tells Dashwood, the flights are with American Airlines.

Clearly the Lord's influence is not as all-pervading as he thinks it might be.

Quote of the week

"There's nothing new under the sun, Everything you think of has been done" Marc Bolland, Marks & Spencer's new chief executive, cites an obscure 1970s song lyric to discuss the strategic review of the high street retailer

Guarding against spin

Following this week's attack on Millbank Tower during the student's march against higher fees, spinners for Solar Gard UK get in touch to point out that more people were not injured during the riots because the ground floor windows in the building were covered in safety window film, which stopped them from shattering.

Some public relations "experts" clearly have no shame.

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