



## PRESS RELEASE

### QBE BUILDS IN-HOUSE LEGAL TEAM WITH NEW HEAD

**London, 25 May 2010**

QBE, the specialist business insurer, today announces the appointment of Esther Felton as Head of Legal for its European Operations as part of the ongoing drive to develop its dedicated in-house legal capabilities.

Esther joined QBE in 2006 from Norton Rose, where she worked for five years in the non-contentious insurance team and, during that time, was closely involved in numerous transactions for QBE.

Well known across the breadth of QBE's business divisions and support teams, Esther was most recently instrumental in establishing QBE's Corporate and Commercial legal panel of external firms, which was designed to provide QBE's clients with the best quality and value legal support in the market.

Esther takes over the role from Adrian Williams, who leaves to join Irish law firm Matheson Ormsby Prentice.

Steven Burns, Chief Executive Officer, QBE European Operations, said "We place enormous value on our in-house legal resource, which provides on the ground, commercially focussed legal advice from colleagues who have a true understanding of the landscape of our business and, at a time when we are looking to invest and develop our legal capability, Esther's experience and knowledge of our business will be invaluable."

QBE won the Insurance In-house Team of the Year award at the 2010 Australasian Law Awards in recognition of the work its corporate legal teams, across the whole of QBE Insurance Group, carried out for a series of acquisitions made by the group.



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### Notes to editors

#### About QBE

QBE Insurance Group is Standard & Poor's 'A+' rated and is one of the world's leading international insurers and reinsurers, headquartered in Sydney, Australia. We operate out of 47 countries across the globe, with a presence in all key insurance markets, and are lead underwriters within our chosen markets, setting rates and conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2009, the company underwrote gross written premium totalling £7,241.86 million and held shareholders' funds of £5,670.07 million.

QBE's European Operations, which accounts for 35% of QBE Group turnover, is a leading specialist in London market and European commercial lines business. Active in both the Lloyd's and company market, QBE offers considerable diversity to the broking community, via four product-focused underwriting divisions – casualty & motor, property, marine & energy, reinsurance & specialist - all operations have the ability to write on both Lloyd's and company market paper.

QBE is proud to be the Official Insurance Partner of the Guinness Premiership and England Rugby. Our partnerships with two elite properties in the sport will allow QBE's brand to continue to develop and business to grow.

