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Release Time: IMMEDIATE/WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 1983.

615/83

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Emma Nicholson, aged 41, who has an extensive political, business and voluntary work background, as a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party.

She will have responsibility within Conservative Central Office for the women's organisation.

The Rt Hon The Baroness Young, a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party since 1975, has relinquished that post. Lady Young informed the Prime Minister some time ago that she would not wish to continue in that position after the General Election. She now has new responsibilities as a Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The new vice-chairman is the daughter of Sir Godfrey Nicholson, Bt., a former Conservative M.P. for Farnham, Surrey, and previously for Morpeth, Northumberland.

She fought Blyth in the 1979 General Election. Her business background was over a period of 10 years, starting as a computer programmer and systems analyst. Later she was appointed computer consultant to John Tyzack, Selection and Management Consultants, London, and following that took up an appointment as computer and management consultant to McLintock, Mann and Whinney Murray of London.

Following a trip to India, and having worked in Africa, she joined the Save the Children Fund in 1973, and in 1977 was appointed to her present position of Director of Fund Raising.

She may be contacted on 01 703 5400 (office) or 01 235 2940 (home).

Printed and Published by Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London, SW1.