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## Co-founder of Lord North Street joins property private office

08:11 GMT , Karen Gilchrist

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William Drake, the founder of private investment office Lord North Street, has moved to property private office RFR. He joins the firm as a senior director.

A trained barrister, Mr Drake transitioned into financial services in 1979, working at Kleinwort Benson and investment bank, Granville, before co-founding Lord North Street in 2000. When the firm merged with Sandaie in 2014, Mr Drake took over as vice chairman and, later, senior adviser. He is to retain this role alongside his latest appointment.

In his new role, Mr Drake will be responsible for advising RFR's co-founders and team of directors on management and operations strategy as well as connecting them to his contacts in the wealth management sector.

RFR was founded in 2009 to provide residential property advice to private clients. Co-founders Sophie Rogerson, an eprivateclient Top 35 Under 35 winner, and fellow lawyer husband, Richard Rogerson, now employ a team of eleven, who together provide advice across five practice areas: property search; property investment; property advisory; managing property assets and; interior design.

Speaking to *thewealthnet*, Mr Rogerson said Mr Drake's appointment was the result of their shared approach to private client advisory services.

He continued: "William co- founded Lord North Street with a clear philosophy that they would always sit on the client's side of the table, free from conflicts so that clients could entirely trust the integrity of their advice. RFR was built on this same philosophy and it remains central to the firm's principles. William's very public endorsement of RFR, combined with his wise counsel and day to day involvement in the firm's growth, is an incredibly exciting step for our business."

"We have no aspirations to be the biggest or to sell the most but we want our name to be prized. We feel like we're going in the right direction and William will only add to that."

Mr Drake added: "Since the merger of Lord North Street and Sandaire, I have been considering a number of roles which would complement my ongoing role as a Senior Adviser to Sandaire. I am delighted that the first of these roles will be at RFR. There are so many echoes of Lord North Street in RFR's approach, not least a business model designed to avoid conflicts of interest and a service that sits entirely on the client's side of the table.

"Our shared legal backgrounds add to the professional foundations which have been central to RFR's growth. A key factor in my decision was a belief in the value of creating a Property Private Office for the benefit of a wide range of private clients. I am hugely looking forward to working with Sophie, Richard and the rest of the RFR team."