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OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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HR Director
DECC

14 May 2013

BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: WENDY BARNES

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Ms Barnes, the former Chief Operating Officer of DECC, who is seeking permission to accept a part-time paid appointment as a Non-Executive Director of BMT Group Ltd (BMT). Ms Barnes left Crown Service following the end of her contract on 31 December 2012 and she hopes to take up this new role in the spring/summer.

The Committee took into account that Ms Barnes has not had any direct official or contractual dealings and she has not been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings with her prospective employer during her last two years of service. She has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about any competitors and has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy or decisions that could have affected her prospective employer or its competitors.

The Committee noted that the proposed appointment is likely to include contact and/or dealings with her former Department or Government more generally. BMT works with the MOD in defence maritime. As part of Ms Barnes's role, she will draw on her experience of defence to help develop the board at a strategic level. She will not, however, have any involvement in the executive decisions and delivery.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

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Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,
Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman), Rt Hon Lord Macdonald of Tradeston CBE
Sir Hugh Stevenson, General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE

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- she should not draw on privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service; and
- for two years from her last day of service, Ms Barnes should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of her new employer or its clients.

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: “Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted”.

Please ensure that we are told when Ms Barnes takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that she will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>) including a copy of this letter.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Ms Barnes informs us if she proposes to change her role with BMT because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

CLAIRE HANNA
COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

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Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman), Rt Hon Lord Macdonald of Tradeston CBE
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