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OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Rod Davis
HR Director
DECC
3 Whitehall Place
London, SW1A 2AW

9 December 2013

Dear Mr Davis,

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANCY 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 two commissions as an independent consultant:

- to deliver a half hour training session on information assurance for all boards of government departments, on behalf of the National Archives; and
- to speak unpaid at the Senior Cyber and Risk Advisory Board (SCaRAB), again to deliver information assurance training, on behalf of the Office of the Government Senior Information Risk Owner, within the Cabinet Office.

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, with the exception of a contract with the National Archives to provide information assurance training to DECC (as all other Government Departments) which was managed by one of her staff. She has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about any competitors

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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 Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's advice that this application be approved subject to the condition that for two years from her last day in office, Ms Barnes should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of her clients.

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.

Since we understand these commissions have already been taken up, in line with our usual practice we will 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 the National Archives or the Cabinet Office because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Your sincerely,



Conrad Steel
Committee Secretariat

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