



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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DAME HELEN GHOSH DCB

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the application from Dame Helen Ghosh to accept a full-time appointment as Director General of The National Trust, following her resignation from the Civil Service on 28 September 2012.

In considering the application, the Committee noted that Dame Helen had applied for an advertised post as Director General of The National Trust, and that there was no connection between the work of the charity and the Home Office. It also noted that she had been asked – in the public interest - to stay as Permanent Secretary until the end of September by the Head of the Civil Service to see through, and follow up on, security issues relating to the Olympics and Paralympics.

The Committee recommended to the Prime Minister that her application to take up the new post in November 2012 be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from her last day of service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of her new employer; the automatic three-month waiting period applicable to Permanent Secretaries being waived. 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”.

The Prime Minister accepted this advice.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Dame Helen takes up this appointment, or if it is announced that she will do so (I enclose a form for convenience). We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments which 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.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

ROGER SAMPSON