



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/07, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0843

Email: acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk

Website: <http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>

Steve Nicholls
Business Appointments



7 January 2013

Dear Steve,

AIR MARSHAL KEVIN LEESON

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Sir Kevin Leeson, former Chief of Material (Air), who is seeking permission to accept a part-time, paid appointment as Senior Safety Advisor with British Airways. Sir Kevin wishes to take up the role forthwith. His last day in post was 1 October 2012 and his last day in Crown service before retiring was 31 March 2013.

When considering the application, the Committee noted that Sir Kevin's role with British Airways will not involve any dealings with his previous employer. They also took into account that while in post Sir Kevin did not have any official dealings with British Airways, and had not been involved in any decisions affecting them. Therefore no propriety concerns arose.

The Secretary of State for Defence has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved subject to the following condition:

- for two years from his last day of service, Sir Kevin should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, its parent company 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".

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Kevin takes up this appointment, or if it is announced that he 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 he had complied with the Rules. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with British Airways, as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

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

Yours sincerely,

Raj Bahia
Committee Secretariat