

PROTECT [IL1]



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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Chief Executive's Office  
HM Revenue and Customs

11 June 2014

Dear Ms Homer,

**BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: PHILIP PAVITT**

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Philip Pavitt, the former Director General Change, Security and Information, who is seeking permission to accept a full-time, paid appointment as Chief Information Officer-IT with SpecSavers. As you know, Mr Pavitt's last day in Crown service was on 4 January 2013. He hopes to take up the appointment 1 June 2014.

When considering the application, the Committee noted that Mr Pavitt did not have any contractual dealings and was not responsible for people who had contractual dealings with his prospective employer during his last two years of service. Furthermore, he did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors nor was he involved in the development or administration of any departmental policy or decisions that could have affected his prospective employer or its competitors.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the application be approved subject to the condition that for two years from his last day of service, Mr Pavitt should have no involvement in negotiation or management of contracts with HMRC and he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his 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".

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Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,

Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke

Sir Hugh Stevenson, General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE

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I should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Pavitt takes up the appointment, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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 SpecSavers, 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 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.

Yours sincerely,



**DEAN PONDER**  
**COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**

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