



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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

14 May 2013

Dear Mr Davis,

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered Ms Wallace's application for permission to accept a part-time, unpaid appointment as Visiting Professor to the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the London School of Economics (LSE), after leaving Crown service on 31 October 2012.

The Committee noted that Ms Wallace has a long background in the study of social exclusion from her time as the Director of the Government's Social Exclusion Unit in the late 1990s and that she is interested in revisiting the data and evidence in this area. The Committee took into account that her proposed role is unlikely to include any contact or dealings with her former Department or Government. The Committee noted that Ms Wallace has not had direct contractual dealings with her prospective employer during her last two years of service, although she has been responsible for people who have had such dealings. The Committee took into account that Professor Hills, who is the Director of the CASE, was appointed by DECC in March 2011 to conduct an independent review of the fuel poverty definition and target. Although two of Ms Wallace's staff led the review and Ministers took an interest in it, Ms Wallace was not closely involved in the decision or recommendation to appoint Professor Hills (albeit she was aware of it).

The Committee noted that Ms Wallace has had official dealings with her prospective employer previously. She has known staff at the CASE for years and she served on its Advisory Board in the early 2000s. Furthermore, she attended briefings that Professor Hills gave on the Fuel Poverty Review at the interim and final report stages.

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

The Committee took into account that Ms Wallace has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about any competitors of her prospective employer. Furthermore, she has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy or decisions (including regulatory work or the award of grants) that could have affected her prospective employer or its competitors.

The Committee noted that Ms Wallace left Crown service six months ago, and so the usual three month waiting period observed by former Permanent Secretaries has already expired.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's recommendation that, the three month waiting period observed by former Permanent Secretaries having expired, Ms Wallace's application be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from her last day of service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of her new employer or its 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.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Wallace takes up this appointment, or, if earlier, when 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change her role with the CASE, as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish details of this letter (redacting your personal information) on the Committee's website at <http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>, 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



CLAIRE HANNA
COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT