



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Employee Relations

Defra

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SIR BOB WATSON CMG FRS

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the application from Sir Bob Watson to accept a part-time appointment with Monash University, following the end of his five-year fixed term contract on 16 September 2012.

When considering the application, the Committee noted Sir Bob's long scientific career and that this will be a part-time role designing and leading a yearly conference or series of think tanks on sustainability issues for the South East Asia and Pacific Region for an Australian university.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer. 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 would be grateful if you could let us know when Sir Bob takes up this appointment, or when 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 would be grateful if you could ensure that he informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with Monash University as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application to the Committee.

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

BETH WATSON