


OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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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 the United Nations Foundation, following the end of his five-year fixed term contract on 16 September 2012.

When considering this application the Committee noted that Sir Bob did not have any direct official or contractual dealings with the United Nations Foundation while in post, and was not responsible for people who had contractual dealings with his prospective employer during his last two years of service. It also took into account that Sir Bob was not involved in the development or administration of any decisions (including the award of grants) that could have affected his prospective employer or its competitors, and he did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors.

The Prime Minister 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 Bob should not become personally involved in lobbying* the UK Government on behalf of his new employer or its clients.

*Lobbying in this context means that the former Crown 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.

Once the appointment has 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.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Sir Bob informs us if he proposes to change his role with the United Nations Foundation because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Raj Bahia
Committee Secretariat