



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up the part-time, unpaid role of Trustee/Director and Consultant with Grow Volunteer Consulting.

In considering your application, the Committee took into account that the role that you wish to undertake is with a charity that provides advice to small and medium sized businesses in developing countries in order to help them develop and lead their countries out of poverty. The Committee also took into account that you were asked to assist as a result of your work experience in business, prior to becoming a Member of Parliament.

The Committee noted that you did not have any direct official or contractual dealings with your prospective employer, its clients or any competitors during your last two years of service. The Committee took into account that you are not aware of any relationship between your prospective employer and your former Department. The Committee noted that it is now six months since you left office.

Taking into account all the circumstances, our advice is that you can accept the appointment forthwith, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) you should not draw on any privileged information from your time in Government;
and
- 2) for two years from the date of your leaving office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of your new employer or its clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister 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 inform us as soon as you take up the appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing this office at the above address. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with Grow Volunteer Consulting as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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.

Lord Lang of Monkton

James Duddridge Esq MP