

PROTECT [IL1]

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/7 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk

Website: <http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>

You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting an unpaid appointment as a non-executive board member for the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), having left Government in September 2012.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that you had no official dealings with CAABU whilst in office and that you are unaware of any relationship, either contractual or non-contractual, between CAABU and your former Department. The Committee noted that you had no dealings with competitors of CAABU, nor did you have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors. The Committee also considered that it had been over a year since you left ministerial office.

The Committee took into account the fact that you are a former Chair of CAABU, and that you would be returning to the Board you previously served on.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is content to approve the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the Ministry of Justice on behalf of your new employer or its clients.

Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister should not engage in communication with the Ministry of Justice – 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

PROTECT [IL1]

PROTECT [IL1]

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 CAABU 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

Crispin Blunt MP

PROTECT [IL1]