

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting an offer of part-time employment as a Non Executive Director of Camgrain, having left Government in September 2012.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account the fact that you did have dealings with Camgrain during your time in office, but that these had been undertaken as a constituency MP and not as a Minister. The Committee noted that Camgrain had received grants from the Rural Development Programme for England during your time in office, but that there had been no ministerial involvement in these.

The Committee noted that you were unaware of any other relationship, either contractual or non-contractual, between Defra and Camgrain, and that you have not had any official dealings with any competitors of Camgrain during your last two years in office. The Committee further considered the fact that your role would be non executive and that there is no proposed involvement with Government.

The Committee also took into account that it has been over a year since you left ministerial office.

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 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 it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the 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 Camgrain 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 applications, 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

Rt Hon Sir James Paice MP