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From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/5 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0842

Email: acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk

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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a part-time, paid appointment (working one to two days per month) as Chairman of the Mindful Policy Group (MPG).

In considering your application, the Committee took into account that you have had official dealings with some of the individuals who are involved in the company (as they advised on working parties set up by the Department for Education), albeit this contact took place before MPG's foundation and the individuals concerned were contacts of yours prior to you taking up ministerial office. The Committee noted that, whilst in Government, you did not have any official dealings with competitors of your proposed employer. The Committee took into account that you will not be personally involved in lobbying Government (as the business is primarily based around research, publications and international conferences). Furthermore, the Committee also noted that it is now five months since you left office.

Taking into account all the circumstances, our advice is that you can accept the appointment as Chairman of MPG 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

UNCLASSIFIED

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 MPG 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

Tim Loughton Esq MP