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From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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September 2012

You asked for the Committee's advice about resuming the following two part-time paid appointments:

- 1) [REDACTED] and
- 2) senior adviser to the Japan Central Railway (JR Central).

You held both posts for a number of years prior to taking up ministerial office in May 2010

The Committee noted that, whilst in government, you did not have official dealings with your prospective employers, their parent companies or their competitors. The Committee also noted that you do not anticipate any lobbying of government in either role.

Our advice is that, on the understanding that you would not draw on any privileged information from your time in government, we see no reason why you should not resume both appointments forthwith, subject to the condition that, for two years from the date of your leaving office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK government on behalf of your new employers or their 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 civil 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 should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointments 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

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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 either [REDACTED] or the JR Central 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

The Right Honourable Lord Howell of Guildford