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From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a part-time appointment (working four days per year) as an economic adviser to the British Chambers of Commerce.

The Committee noted that, whilst in Government, you did not have any significant contact with the British Chambers of Commerce and you were not involved with any competitors. The Committee also noted that the appointment is unpaid and that it would be in line with supporting the United Kingdom's prosperity objectives. Furthermore, the Committee took into account the fact that it is now four months since you left Government but that you currently act as personal adviser to the Foreign Secretary on energy and resource security.

Our advice is that, on the understanding that you would not draw on any privileged information from your time in Government, or in your current capacity as personal adviser to the Foreign Secretary on energy and resource security, we see no reason why you should not take up this appointment forthwith, subject to the condition that, 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 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 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

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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 the British Chambers of Commerce 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