

PROTECT [IL1]



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Richard Heaton
Permanent Secretary
Cabinet Office

27 February 2013

Dear Mr Heaton,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: RICHARD JON HAZELWOOD

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the application from Richard Hazelwood, the former Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Wales and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, who is seeking permission to undertake a full-time, paid appointment as Policy Adviser to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECRG). As you will be aware, as a former Special Adviser his application is required to be considered by the Advisory Committee, which provides advice to the relevant Permanent Secretary for a decision.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that Mr Hazelwood has not had any direct contractual dealings and has not been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings with his prospective employer during his last two years of service. He has, however, had official contact with his prospective employer but on a political level only in relation to Conservative Party business. He has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about any competitors and he has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy or decisions that could have affected his prospective employer or its competitors. The Committee took into account that the proposed role will potentially involve limited contact/dealings with Ministers on a political level on ECRG policy as it relates to Wales and the Conservative Party in Wales.

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Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,
Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman), Rt Hon Lord Macdonald of Tradeston CBE
Sir Hugh Stevenson, General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE

The Committee noted that the role was advertised and that it is now nearly six months since Mr Hazelwood left Crown service.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is of the view that the proposed post raises no particular propriety concerns under the Business Appointments Rules, provided that Mr Hazelwood observes the following conditions:

- he should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Special Adviser; and
- that, for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government Ministers or Crown servants, including Special Advisers, on behalf of his new employer or its clients.

As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if he has not already done so, Mr Hazelwood must confirm in writing to your Department that he recognises that he continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.

I should be grateful if you could inform us of your final decision and send us a copy of your letter to Mr Hazelwood informing him of the outcome of his application. Please also ensure that we are told when Mr Hazelwood takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>) including, with your agreement, a copy of your letter.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask Mr Hazelwood to inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with ECRG because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hanna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CLAIRE HANNA