



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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HR Resourcing and Talent
BIS

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GEOFF RUSSELL

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the application from Geoff Russell, the Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency, who is seeking permission to accept a part-time appointment as a non-executive director of VTB Capital plc following his resignation from the Civil Service. His last day of service will be 31 July 2012.

When considering the application the Committee observed that Mr Russell had had no dealings with VTB Capital and that there was no connection between his position as Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency and his proposed new role.

The Committee saw no reason why he should not take up the position after his last day of Crown Service and recommended to the Prime Minister that the application be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of his new employer or its clients. 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.

The Prime Minister accepted this advice.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Russell takes up this appointment, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for convenience). 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the Rules. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would ask that Mr Russell inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with VTB Capital as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

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.

BETH WATSON