



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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SIMON FRASER

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: SIR TOM PHILLIPS

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the application Sir Tom Phillips, former HM Ambassador to Riyadh, who is seeking permission to accept part-time appointments with Wilton Park and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, following his retirement from Crown service on 23 July 2012. His last day in post was 31 May 2012.

The Committee's advice to the Secretary of State is that the applications be approved subject to the conditions that:

- for six months from his last day in post, he should not return to Saudi Arabia for business purposes, give advice on it or have dealings with companies there; and
- for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying UK government on behalf of his new employer. Lobbying in this context means that the former Crown 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 would be grateful if you would let us know whether the Foreign Secretary is content to approve the applications in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision.

I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Tom takes up these appointments, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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 he had complied with the rules.

Similarly, should Sir Tom wish to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role with either organisation, he should inform the Committee as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

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

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Once the appointment has been taken up or announced we will then we will publish the FCO's final letter to Sir Tom on the Advisory Committee's website at <http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>, and include the main details of the appointment, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

BETH WATSON

Committee Secretariat

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