

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2014

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#### Present

Lord Lang (Chair)  
Sir Colin Budd  
Lord Dholakia  
Ms Mary Jo Jacobi  
Baroness Liddell  
Sir Hugh Stevenson

#### Secretariat

Ekpe Attah (Secretary)  
Deborah de Beukelaer  
Catherine Millington  
Maggie O'Boyle  
Clare Salters

#### Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Mark Addison and Lord Walker.

#### Minutes of last meeting

2. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 December 2013, were agreed.

#### Chairman's update

3. The Chairman had appeared before the House of Commons' Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) on 25 March for a one-off evidence session on the work of the Committee. He had subsequently written to the Chairman of PASC to clarify one point that had come up in discussion, and PASC had undertaken to publish his letter along with the transcript of the evidence session.
4. The terms of office of several Committee members, including the Chairman, would come to an end between the end of March and the end of July 2014. The Cabinet Office, as the Committee's sponsoring department, would be initiating the appointments process for new independent members and seeking a new nomination from both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties.
5. The Committee discussed a recent case where, on the advice of departmental HR and the Cabinet Office, an applicant had sought to take up an outside appointment before their last day of Crown service. Whilst recognising that this might be permissible under departments' HR rules, the Committee agreed that it would not be appropriate for it to consider outside appointments taken up while an individual was still in Crown service (in the event, in the case under discussion, the applicant had agreed to delay the start of the outside appointment until after the end of their Crown service).

#### Case consideration

6. The Committee discussed its provisional recommendation on an application. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that it should continue to provide provisional recommendations only in cases where an applicant submitted their application many

months in advance of them leaving Crown service, as the circumstances surrounding an application might change in the intervening period.

**Communications**

7. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

**Freedom of Information**

8. One internal review of a response to an FOI request had been carried out since the last meeting.

**Any other business**

9. In view of the fact that it was Lord Lang's last meeting as Chairman of the Committee, Sir Hugh Stevenson (who the Prime Minister had appointed as interim Chairman) thanked Lord Lang for his leadership and unfailingly sound counsel over the last five years.
10. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 2.30pm at 1 Horse Guards Road.

Committee Secretariat  
April 2014