



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Application to accept an outside appointment: LORD DAVID RICHARDS OF HERSTMONCEUX GCB CBE DSO ADC Gen

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has been asked to consider an application from Lord Richards, former Chief of Defence Staff. His last day of Crown Service was 18 July 2013.

Lord Richards is seeking approval to take up employment with Arturius International, an independent specialist company offering logistics and engineering support in remote and austere locations, staffed by ex military logistics professionals. It currently operates in Africa and the Middle East, providing services to the oil and gas, mining, defence and construction industries. The appointment is part-time, one day per month and he will be paid.

The Committee noted with concern that this application was not completed until after the appointment was taken up.

In their consideration of this application, the Committee noted that the appointment is not likely to include contact with his former department.

Lord Richards has had no official dealings with his prospective employer nor has he been involved in decisions which might affect the business of Arturius. He was not involved in the development or administration of departmental policy or policy decisions or other work which could have affected Arturius or its competitors nor has he had access to commercially sensitive information.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that this application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- For two years from his last day of service Lord Richards should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer; and
- He should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant.

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying 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 could let us know when Lord Richards takes up this appointment, or when 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the rules.

Once the appointment has been taken up or announced, we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee’s website and include the main details of the appointment, together with the Committee’s advice and the date on which he took it up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Lord Richards informs us if he proposes to change his role with this company because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Michaela Greener
Committee Secretariat