

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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November 2015

The Committee has considered your request to take up appointments with Floreat Group, Hume Brophy, the University of Hull and the University of Liverpool. You left your ministerial position in May 2015.

Floreat Group

Floreat Group is an independent private investment office. With Floreat you would act as a Special Advisor for the firm; with your duties being information gathering, performing due diligence and research. This role is paid and would require a time commitment of around 7 days per month.

Hume Brophy

Hume Brophy is an international communications firm specialising in Public Relations, Investor Relations, Public Affairs, Corporate and Financial Communications. You would act as a Senior Consultant with responsibility for communications, media strategy and planning for clients. This is also a paid role with a commitment of 4 days per month.

University of Liverpool and the University of Hull

At Liverpool you would act as a visiting lecturer. It is a paid position for 1 day a month. Meanwhile, with Hull you would engage in a fellowship. This too is paid and would require a time commitment of around 5 days a month.

When considering your applications, the Committee took into account that you did not have direct dealings with any of the four organisations, or their competitors, in your time as a Minister and that, to your knowledge, they do not have currently have dealings with your former department.

Taking into account all of the circumstances, and having sought the opinion of your former department, which did not have any concerns regarding the propriety of any of these appointments, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take them up, subject to the following conditions:

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair), Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger CBE, Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

From the Chair

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations or persons to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you in your time as a Minister;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the organisations to which this advice refers, their parent companies, subsidiaries or clients.

Given the nature of the work that Hume Brophy carry out, the Committee would particularly like to stress the lobbying ban in relation to that appointment.

By ‘privileged information’ we mean official information to which a Minister has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] 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 would inform us as soon as you take up any of these appointments, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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 you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with these organisations as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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.

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Esther McVey

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