



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/08 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

21 April 2016

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: JON ROUSE

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules on behalf of Jon Rouse, DG Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships at the Department of Health. Mr Rouse has resigned to take up a position with NHS England and his last day in Crown service is 22 July 2016. His appointment has featured in media reports, accompanied by a personal statement.

First, I would like to register the Committee's concern that Mr Rouse's application was submitted after his appointment had been announced. The business appointment rules for former Crown servants specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. To fulfil the remit given to it by Government the Committee needs to be able to consider an application fully and freely before offering its advice. It is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been announced and/or taken up. The Committee is therefore unwilling to give retrospective approval for this appointment.

The Committee would however formally record that:

1. Mr Rouse has informed the Committee that his role is Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and that he will lead the body overseeing devolution of health and social care in Greater Manchester.
2. NHS England is an arms-length body of the Department of Health and the Greater Manchester Devolution Project is a product of Government Policy.
3. While at the Department of Health Mr Rouse had worked closely with his prospective employer and had an influence over ministerial decisions affecting it.
4. Mr Rouse was appointed following an open application process.
5. Mr Rouse will need to have contact with Government to carry out this role.

The Committee would also draw your attention to the normal restriction it imposes prohibiting the misuse of privileged information obtained while in public office.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat