



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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8 April 2016

Dear Sir Ed,

The Committee has considered your request to accept a commission with 'Fit for the Future', a network for not-for-profit and charitable organisations that aims to share best practice among its members on how their organisations can become more sustainable, reduce their energy bills and lower the impact they have on the environment. The Committee noted that you would become their unpaid chairman, working for around eight days a year.

**The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy. Your consultancy is in the area of energy and climate change, covering the full spectrum of the energy industry – from renewables to offshore UKCS, from community energy to the UN climate change talks. Your aim is to help bodies such as companies, business consultancies, investors, developers, law firms and non-governmental bodies to develop thought leadership in the energy and climate change sector, to understand past energy policies and to understand how future policy in the UK, the EU and elsewhere might develop.**

The conditions that continue to apply to your consultancy are:

- You should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its subsidiaries or its clients;
- You should not involve yourself in work related to Hinkley Point C or any commercial deal in which DECC is currently involved; and
- Once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each subsequent individual commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it

up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying 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 [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 would be grateful if you could let me know when you take up this commission, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to 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.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat