



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>

20 September 2016

Dear Mr Manzoni,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: AMEETPAL GILL OBE

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules for Ameetpal Gill, former Director of Strategy at No.10. Mr Gill left Crown service in July 2016.

Mr Gill launched his consultancy, Hanbury Strategy, on 12 September. His consultancy will offer companies, interest groups and charities strategic, campaigns and policy advice.

First, I would like to register the Committee's concern that Mr Gill's consultancy and the fact that it had already secured clients was announced before the Committee had had the opportunity to offer its advice. 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 would like to emphasise that it expects Mr Gill to seek advice from the Committee in relation to each individual commission before taking it up, as is standard practice for former Crown servants who have set up consultancies following the correct process under the Business Appointment Rules. The Committee will consider each individual commission afresh, on its merits, under the Rules. In the meantime, the Committee would wish to draw Mr Gill's attention to the normal restrictions it imposes on outside appointments prohibiting lobbying and 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