



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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December 2016

### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: BILL CROTHERS CB**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Bill Crothers, former Government Chief Commercial Officer. He wishes to establish an independent consultancy and to take up a commission.

The Committee noted that Mr Crothers expects to offer advisory services providing general business advice, typically in areas such as governance, strategy, procurement, sales and technology. His first commission will be to work as a subcontractor to Francis Maude Associates (FMA) through which he will provide procurement and commercial advice to help FMA advise overseas governments on how to improve the way they buy services and products and/ or to manage contracts better. His initial assignment would involve working with the Australian government and would last one week.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that Mr Crothers' former department had no concerns about him setting up a consultancy and working with FMA in the manner described. They also noted that 12 months had passed since he held the post of Chief Commercial Officer.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- Mr Crothers should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service;
- For two years from his last day in service, Mr Crothers should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of his clients or those he advises or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of any of his clients or those he advises;
- For two years from his last day of service, before accepting any new commission he should apply to the Committee for approval to confirm that it is acceptable under the Committee's guidelines. In considering the matter on such further reference, the Committee may seek the views of relevant departments. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy he will be expected to submit a fresh application).
- Further, should subsequent elements of his work through Francis Maude Associates (FMA) change or expand in such a way that it falls outside the terms set out in this advice, Mr Crothers should return to the Committee for advice on that particular piece of work.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant 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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "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 ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Crothers takes up this work as a consultant, or if 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Mr Crothers had complied with the rules.

Once this consultancy work has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat