



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: RUPERT HARRISON CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Rupert Harrison, former senior special adviser to the Chancellor. Mr Harrison wishes to take up a position as Chair of the Advisory Board at The Fore Trust. This is a sub trust of The Bulldog Trust, a charity providing grants and technical support to new innovative charities and social enterprises.

In considering the application the Committee noted that this is an unpaid role, which will amount to the equivalent of two day's work per year and is unlikely to include any contact or dealings with Government.

The Committee took into account that Mr Harrison had no official dealings with The Bulldog Trust/ The Fore Trust in his last two years of service. They also noted that HM Treasury indicated that they could see no conflict of interest and were content for Mr Harrison to take up this post.

The Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that that in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the post be subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- for two years from his last day in service he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The Bulldog Trust/ The Fore Trust or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of The Bulldog Trust/ The Fore Trust or those they represent.

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. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if he has not already done so, Mr Harrison must confirm in writing to your department that he recognises that he continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.)

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 would be grateful if you can confirm if you are content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Harrison takes up this role, 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 which have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Mr Harrison complied with the rules.

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.

Yours sincerely

Alex Morrow
Committee Secretariat