



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

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**GENERAL SIR NICHOLAS (NICK) HOUGHTON GCB CBE ADC**

Dear Sir Nick

The Committee has considered your request to accept a new commission under the terms of your independent consultancy, with British Petroleum (BP).

The Committee took into consideration that the work would involve around 2 days' work per month, over 3 years. In particular, you would be providing independent strategic advice at board level on operating, and the related geopolitical risk, in: Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa - including crisis preparedness and response management.

**The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy, which was described as advising at board level on corporate leadership, operating model enhancements and geo-political risk.**

The conditions that apply to your independent consultancy are:

- a three-month waiting period from your last day in Crown service;
- that you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- for two years from your last day in post you should not work in the UK Defence market;
- for two years from your last day in Crown service, you should not undertake any work as a consultant that involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD or is trading funds;
- for two years from your last day of Crown service you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise, nor make use of, directly or indirectly, your Government and/or Crown Service contacts to influence policy or secure business on behalf of your clients; and
- for two years from your last day in Crown service, before accepting any new commissions and or/before extending or otherwise changing the nature of any

commission, you should make a case directly to the Committee to confirm that each individual commission you wish to take would be permissible under the terms of this consultancy.

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 "should not engage in communication with Government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a Government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office."

I would be grateful if you could let me know when you take up either of this commission, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish this letter and brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Catrina Marshall  
Committee Secretariat