



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

6 March 2017

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE ZAMBELLAS

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Admiral Sir George Zambellas, former First Sea Lord, who proposes to take up a role with Liquid Robotics Inc.

Sir George was First Sea Lord between April 2013 and April 2016. His last day in Crown service was 21 August 2016.

Sir George wishes to take up a role with Liquid Robotics Inc. This is an American company which designs and manufactures ocean robots. Liquid Robotics Inc works with defence, commercial, and science customers. This includes working on: anti-submarine warfare, surface vessel detection, illegal fishing, trafficking, and environmental monitoring and assessments.

As a Senior Advisory Board Member, Sir George will provide strategic advice and guidance on robotics, unmanned systems, and maritime technology and their use globally across all maritime sectors.

When considering the application the Committee noted that the role is a paid part-time position, around 48 days' work per year. The Committee also took into consideration that Sir George had no official dealings with Liquid Robotics Inc whilst in post and he had no access to commercially sensitive information relating to the company.

The Committee took particular interest in the recent acquisition of Liquid Robotics Inc by the Boeing Company (Boeing). The Committee was reassured that Sir George was unaware of Boeing's involvement until it was announced, on 6 December, two months after he was offered the role. The Committee also took into consideration that whilst Sir George is aware of numerous contracts Boeing has with the MOD, he has had no involvement in procurement, nor any official dealings with them. The Committee also noted the role is unlikely to involve any contact with the MOD or Government in general.

The Committee took into account the MOD Business Appointments Panel's view, who expressed no concerns about Sir George taking up this position, subject to a two-year

lobbying ban. It was mindful that whilst he had access to top level information at the MOD, Liquid Robotics Inc work with new technology, and have no relationship with MOD. However, they would expect Sir George's work under this application to be restricted to working with Liquid Robotics; and any change to his role to work with Boeing should come through the usual business appointments application process.

The Committee recommended a number of conditions in order to mitigate against any perception that Sir George would unfairly advantage any future move into the UK, and therefore potential contracts with the MOD.

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

- for two years from his last day of Crown service he should not provide advice to Liquid Robotics Inc or The Boeing Company on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service he should only undertake the work for Liquid Robotics to which this application relates and should not undertake work on any wider basis for either Liquid Robotics or The Boeing Company without seeking advice from the Committee under a separate application;
- he should not draw on any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf Liquid Robotics Inc, or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/ or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of Liquid Robotics Inc or The Boeing Company, or their representatives.

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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "*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 should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir George takes up this position, 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Sir George informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

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

Catriona Marshall
Committee Secretariat