



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

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**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: MS ANGELA RUTH RIDGWELL**

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules on behalf of Ms Ridgwell, Director General, Finance and Corporate Services, at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), about taking up an appointment with Lancashire County Council (LCC) as an interim CEO.

Ms Ridgwell's application noted that she is currently in her role as a Director General at BEIS and she is due to take up this role with LCC once she has left the Crown Service (which is due to be in mid-January 2018).

Firstly, I would like to register the Committee's concern that Ms Ridgwell's appointment to LCC was announced in numerous newspapers and media outlets within days of the Committee receiving an application. As such, the appointment was accepted and announced before the Committee was able to provide its advice.

The Business Appointment Rules for former Crown servants specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. The Committee needs to be able to fully and freely consider an application 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 is therefore unwilling to give retrospective advice for this appointment.

The Committee, however, will formally record that:

- Ms Ridgwell confirmed she secured the appointment through a competitive interview process.
- Ms Ridgwell also told the Committee that, as well as becoming interim CEO, she will become Head of Paid Service and S151 Officer (Responsible Financial Officer).
- Ms Ridgwell describes her role as being responsible for: the effective delivery and operations of the local Authority, in compliance with statutory responsibilities including Adult Social Care; Children's Social Care; Highways and Transportation; and Strategic Planning. She does not expect to have contact with Government in this role.

- Ms Ridgwell stated she had no previous official dealings with LCC whilst she was in office and that she has no commercially sensitive information. This was confirmed by the Department.
- The Department confirmed the information given by Ms Ridgwell and stated it has no relationship with LCC, and that she had no official dealings with the Council whilst she was in office.

The Committee wishes to draw Ms Ridgwell's attention to the usual restrictions it imposes including: a two year lobby ban and a ban on drawing on privileged information gained whilst in 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,

Sarah Parkington  
Committee Secretariat