



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/08 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

9 October 2019

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: Air Vice Marshal Ian Morrison CBE

1. The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Air Vice Marshal Morrison on taking up a role with Kiris Group Ltd, Intelligence and Security (Kiris).
2. Air Vice Marshal Morrison was Acting Air Marshal and Director General at the Ministry of Defence, responsible for supplying defence equipment and services to Saudi Armed Forces (Defence Saudi Armed Forces Projects [MOD SAP]) from September 2012 to April 2018. His last day in post was 4 April 2018 and his last day in Crown service was 15 October 2018.

Application details

3. Air Vice Marshal Morrison has sought the Committee's advice on taking up a role with Kiris. Kiris have asked him to take up a coordinating role for a contingency planning team.
4. Air Vice Marshal Morrison told the Committee this follows the evacuation of one of Barratt Homes' sites at Cityscape, in Croydon. A building was found to be structurally unsafe and tenants have since been evacuated. This role would be to coordinate with the emergency services, the local authorities and Barratt Homes on the follow up actions required for the schools and commercial premises close to the Cityscape building.
5. This is a part-time, paid role and he would be contracted by Kiris. Air Vice Marshal Morrison confirmed it would not involve any contact with the MOD or the Government.

6. Air Vice Marshal Morrison also confirmed he had no official dealings with his prospective employers whilst in post at the MOD; which was confirmed by the MOD who confirmed the MOD has no commercial relationship with his prospective employers.

7. The MOD further advised it had no propriety concerns about this appointment and saw no reason he should not be able to start this work without delay, subject to the usual restrictions (which prevent lobbying, improper use of contacts and advising bids and contracts with the MOD).

The Committee's Consideration

8. There is no commercial relationship between the MOD and Kiris, nor Barratt Homes; and Air Vice Marshal Morrison had no official dealings with either company in office. As such, the Committee¹ agreed with the MOD there was no objective reason this role would be perceived as a reward for decisions made or actions taken in office.

9. This role is not in the defence sector and raises no particular risks in relation to the information Air Vice Marshal Morrison was privy to in office. However, the Committee would draw his attention to the conditions below which prevent him from using privileged information or his contacts gained in office to the unfair advantage of his employers. Further the Committee has imposed a condition that prevents Air Vice Marshal Morrison from advising on bids and contracts to mitigate the inherent risks in this case, should his employers seek to do work with the future with his former department.

10. In the circumstances, the Secretary of State for Defence accepted the Committee's advice that, under the Business Appointment Rules, the appointment with Kiris Group Ltd be subject to the following conditions:

- Air Vice Marshal Morrison 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 him from his time in Crown service;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK MOD on behalf of Kiris Group Ltd, or their subsidiaries, partners or clients;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying contacts he has developed during Crown service, such as at BAE Systems, and in other Governments, such as that of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the purpose of securing business for Kiris Group Ltd, its subsidiaries, partners or clients; and

¹ Sir Alex Allan; Jonathan Baume; Baroness Angela Browning; Dr Susan Liautaud; Richard Thomas; Lord Larry Whitty and John Wood. Terence Jagger was unavailable.

- for two years from his last day in Crown service he should not provide advice to Kiris Group Ltd on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of a bid with, or contract relating directly to the work of the UK MOD, MODSAP or their trading funds.

11. 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.

12. 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.*"

13. I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Air Vice Marshal Morrison's appointment is taken up. 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.

14. I should also be grateful if you would ask that Air Vice Marshal Morrison inform us if he proposes to expand or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

15. Once Air Vice Marshal Morrison has announced or taken up any of the commissions above, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and in the relevant annual report.

Cat Marshall
Committee Secretariat

