



## **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](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

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### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: LT GEN SIR SIMON MAYALL**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Lt Gen Sir Simon Mayall, formerly the UK Government's Defence Senior Advisor for the Middle East, who proposes to take up an appointment with Brightstone Middle East and to set up an independent consultancy.

Sir Simon was the UK Government's Defence Senior Advisor for the Middle East between 2011 and 2015. He was responsible for maximising the influence of the UK's defence relationships in the Middle East in support of the wider UK national interest. Prior to this, he was Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) between 2009 and 2011. Sir Simon's last day in post was 6 April 2015. His last day in Crown service was 28 July 2015.

Sir Simon is seeking approval to accept a position as a consultant with Brightstone Middle East, a British-Emirati company, facilitating British companies that wish to set up, operate or trade with the UAE and some other Middle Eastern countries. Sir Simon would be employed to provide advice on the company's business development and potentially become involved with client management in the UK.

Sir Simon also wants to establish an independent consultancy that will focus on giving strategic level advice on risk and opportunity to companies wishing to understand the Middle East and North Africa or to do business there. He was granted approval to take on a role as a Senior Advisory Board Member for Greenhill and Co International in July 2015 and will continue this work through his consultancy.

When considering this application the Committee took into account Sir Simon's assertion that the MOD has no relationship with Brightstone Middle East and the role will not involve any contact or dealings with the MOD or government more generally.

The Committee also took into account that the MOD Business Appointments Panel expressed no reservations about Sir Simon taking up a position with Brightstone Middle East and establishing an independent consultancy, subject to conditions.

The Secretary of State for Defence accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Sir Simon should not take up these appointments, subject to the following conditions:

- He should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service;
- For two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of his clients or those he advises;
- He should revert to the Committee for permission prior to working on defence-related business for Brightstone Middle East;
- For two years from his last day of service, before accepting any new commission he should apply to the Committee for approval to confirm that it is acceptable under the terms of his independent consultancy and the Business Appointments Rules. (If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy he will be expected to submit a fresh application).

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 - 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 should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Simon takes up the appointment with Brightstone Middle East, 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 Simon 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

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat