



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

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Sir Nicholas Macpherson  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

28 May 2015

Dear Sir Nicholas,

**Business Appointments Application: Mr Rupert Harrison**

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Rupert Harrison, the former Special Adviser – Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. Mr Harrison has applied to take up a full time, paid appointment with Blackrock, an asset management company. His role would be Managing Director, Dynamic Diversified Growth, Multi Assets division.

The Committee took into account that Mr Harrison has been involved in the development of the Government's approach to regulation of the banking sector. However, this work was focused on the nature of the structure of the financial sector in general and did not specifically relate to asset management. The Committee noted that he has not had access to commercial sensitive information about any competitors of Blackrock.

The Committee has taken into consideration the fact that Mr Harrison has said that he will not lobby Ministers or Government officials. It has also taken into consideration the fact that HMT supports Mr Harrison's appointment and does not consider that there are any conflicts of interest or commercially sensitive issues to consider.

The Committee's advice is that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant;

- for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new company or its clients;

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: “Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy 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 could inform us of your final decision and send us a copy of your letter to Mr Harrison informing him of the outcome of his application. Please also ensure that we are told when Mr Harrison takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://www.gov.uk/acoba>).

**Dean Ponder**