



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about two new commissions under your independent consultancy.

You would like to take up two new commissions, with the Grantham Institutes and the Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE), under your independent consultancy. The Grantham Institutes, aim to improve the interaction between researchers in climate change and decision makers. The work would involve joining the joint advisory board of the institutes at LSE and Imperial College London, and advising on strategic direction. With ADE, a decentralised energy advocate, you would be taking up an unpaid position providing input to the development of their strategy, supporting their public facing activities, and acting in a personal capacity to provide insight and support.

The Committee noted that it has now been 17 months since you left ministerial office.

The Committee agrees that your two new commissions fall within the terms of your independent consultancy. This was defined as covering the full spectrum of the energy industry – from renewables to offshore UKCS, from community energy to the UN climate change talks. Your aim is to help bodies such as companies, business consultancies, investors, developers, law firms and non-governmental bodies to develop thought leadership in the energy and climate change sector, to understand past energy policies and to understand how future policy in the UK, the EU and elsewhere might develop.

The Committee therefore sees no reason why you should not take these up, subject to the conditions already imposed on your consultancy. These conditions are:

- You should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its subsidiaries or its clients;
- You should not involve yourself in work related to Hinkley Point C or any commercial deal in which DECC [now BEIS] is currently involved; and
- Once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the **Committee directly** that each subsequent individual commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If,

after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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 or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "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 inform us as soon as you take up any of these pieces of work, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change these roles as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the roles have been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey