

From the Chair



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://www.gov.uk/acoba>

October 2015

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting a new part time role as a Board Adviser with Total Training.

When considering your applications the Committee noted that you had no official contact with the organisation in your role as a Government Whip, and there is no relationship between them and your former department, although they are a company local to your former constituency and as such you had dealings with them in your capacity as an MP.

The Committee also took into account the views of your former department, who had no concerns about the appointment.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not accept the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- That you should not draw on [disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations to which this advice refers] any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Total Training, their parent companies, subsidiaries or clients.

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

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other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former 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 inform us as soon as you take up this appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

Baroness Browning

Baroness Burt of Solihull