



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

G/7 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

May 2017

You asked for the Committee's advice about an appointment with the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Committee's remit

As you know, it is the Committee's role to advise on any conditions that should apply to appointments or employment under the Government's Business Appointments Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules), which apply to former Ministers for two years after they leave office.

The Rules seek to counter suspicion that:

- a) the decisions and statements of a serving Minister might be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation; or
- b) an employer could make improper use of official information to which a former Minister has had access; or
- c) there may be cause for concern about the appointment in some other particular respect.

When the Committee considers applications it must have in mind that Government has judged that it is in the public interest that former Ministers with experience in Government should be able to move into business or into other areas of public life, and to be able to start a new career or resume a former one. It is equally important that when a former Minister takes up a particular appointment or employment, there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety.

The Committee has now considered your application, as set out below:

**Member of the Global Board of Advisers at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)**

The Committee noted that the CFR is an independent, nonpartisan membership organisation, think tank and publisher based in the U.S. It acts as a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the U.S and other countries. The

CFR's Global Board of Advisers consists of business leaders, noted academics, and former government officials from developed and emerging-market countries.

When considering the application, the Committee also considered the following:

- As an independent, nonpartisan membership organisation, think tank and publisher - CFR is funded through donations and gifts.
- You are seeking to join the CFR as a Member of the Global Board of Advisers - an unpaid, part-time role, which will require a time commitment of three to four days each year.
- You will take part in the program for Members, which includes an annual meeting, to which Members of CFR's Board of Directors as well as Government and financial leaders are invited, for discussions about international issues.
- In addition, between meetings, you are able to make use of the CFR for briefings on foreign policy concerns or speak to the CFR's membership about global issues.
- As the former Prime Minister, information was sought on your application from the Cabinet Office. You stated you had no official dealings with the CFR whilst in office, which was confirmed by the Cabinet Office.
- The Cabinet Office also told the Committee that during your time in office as Prime Minister, Richard Haass (President of CFR) was commissioned by the UK Government to produce a report on possible ways of resolving a number of contentious Northern Ireland issues, and that he will have met you during this period, but that this work was carried out in a personal capacity, rather than as a representative of the CFR.
- It is not likely that this role will include contact with Government and the Committee noted that the CFR takes no institutional positions on policy matters.
- The Cabinet office raised has no concerns about you taking up this this appointment.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as Prime Minister;
- for two years from your last day in Ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Council on Foreign Relations, their partners or who it represents. You should not make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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.

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."*

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up employment with this organisation, or if 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Rules and the Ministerial Code.

Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you 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.

The Baroness Browning

The Right Honourable David Cameron