



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Dr Lawrence,

Independent Consultancy - New Commissions

The Committee has considered your request to accept two new commissions with the Australian Government and Third Bridge.

The Committee noted that your commissions will involve being a panel member undertaking an evaluation of the Geoscience Australia Science Program; and providing an assessment of the current geographical and mapping sector in the UK for Third Bridge.

The Committee agrees that these commissions are permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy, which was defined as ‘to provide strategic advice on how to optimise information assets in the global digital arena’.

The conditions that apply to your independent consultancy are:

- for two years from your last day of service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise;
- you should not draw on [disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations or persons to which this advice refers] privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- for 12 months from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of Ordnance Survey or any subsidiary of Ordnance Survey; and
- for two years from your last day of service, before accepting any new commission you should make a case directly to the Committee to confirm that each individual commission you wish to undertake would be permissible under the approved terms of the consultancy. (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 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 "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 would be grateful if you could let me know when you take up either of these commissions, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report. This letter may also be published (with relevant redactions of personal information).

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Millington