



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/8 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/acoba

Ms Melanie Dawes
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

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Ref. 1516/27

Business Appointments Application: Lord Kerslake

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Lord Kerslake, the former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Head of the Civil Service. He is seeking permission to accept a voluntary position as Chair of the Sheffield Theatres Trust Board. Lord Kerslake's last day in Crown Service was 28 February 2015.

The Committee noted that the Sheffield Theatres Trust is a charitable organisation responsible for the running of theatres in Sheffield.

When considering the application, the Committee noted that Lord Kerslake did not have any direct contractual dealings with the Sheffield Theatres Trust in his last two years of service and was not responsible for any members of staff who did.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's advice that this recommendation be approved subject to the conditions that:

- Lord Kerslake should not draw on [disclose or use for the benefit of himself, or the organisation, or person to which this advice refers] any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- For two years from his last day of service, Lord Kerslake should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Sheffield Theatres Trust, its partners 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

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

It might also be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/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 also be grateful if you would ask that Lord Kerslake informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Please could you also ask Lord Kerslake to inform us when he takes up his post or, if earlier, when it is announced. We are otherwise unable to deal with any enquiries, as we do not release information about appointments that have not been announced or taken up and this could lead to the false assumption that he did not comply with the rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then 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.

Yours sincerely

Alex Young
Committee Secretariat