



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

G/5 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

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

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

Mr Richard Heaton  
Permanent Secretary  
Cabinet Office  
1 Horse Guards Road  
SW1A 2HQ

5 September 2012

Dear Mr Heaton,

**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATIONS: DR SEAN WORTH**

The Committee has been asked to consider two applications from Dr Sean Worth, a former Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, who is seeking permission to accept part-time roles [REDACTED] and as a strategic adviser to MHP Communications, following his resignation from Crown service on 5 June 2012. The Rules require that, as a former special adviser, Dr Worth's applications be considered by the Advisory Committee, which provides advice to the relevant Permanent Secretary for a decision.

It noted that Dr Worth had had only minor official dealings with [REDACTED] and none with MHP Communications, and that he had not had access to any commercially sensitive information concerning competitors of either organisation. [REDACTED]

With respect to the MHP Communications application, the Committee recommends that it be approved subject to the condition that, for twelve months from Dr Worth's last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of his new employer or its clients.


The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant should not engage in communication with Government

(including Ministers, special advisers and officials) with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted”.

As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes these recommendations on the understanding that Dr Worth will be required, if he has not done so already, to confirm in writing to the department that he recognises that he will continue to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law which protect certain categories of information, including the Official Secrets Act, and by his duty of confidentiality to the Crown.

I should be grateful if you could let us know if you are content to accept the Committee’s recommendation, and also ensure that we are copied in to the letter to Dr Worth informing him of the outcome of his application.

I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Dr Worth takes up the appointment with MHP Communications, or if is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the rules.

 We will similarly publish the details of the MHP Communications appointment once we have been notified that it has been taken up or announced.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Sampson  
Committee Secretariat