

*From the Chair*



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up an unpaid, part-time appointment as an honorary patron with Women in Racing, having left your ministerial position in May 2015. Your role would involve you giving general support to the committee members of WIR. You intend to take up this role with immediate effect, with a time commitment of around one event a year.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that you did have official dealings with Women In Racing but this formed part of your ministerial duty in promoting women and sport. The Committee also noted that you are aware of a relationship between your former department and Women in Racing but have noted that this is to cooperate on increasing women's representation in sport.

Taking into account all of the circumstances, and having sought the opinion of your former department, which did not have any concerns regarding the propriety of this appointment, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- That you should not draw on [disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations or persons 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 Women in Racing, its partners, or any of its clients.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available.

**Members:**

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair), Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger,  
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

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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.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "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".

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointment, 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 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with WIR as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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.

Baroness Browning

Helen Grant MP

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