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OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATIONS: PROFESSOR SIR JOHN BEDDINGTON CMG FRS

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered seven applications from Professor Sir John Beddington, the former Government Chief Scientific Adviser, who is seeking permission to accept the following seven part-time appointments:

- a) a paid post as a Senior Advisor with Oxford Martin School, the University of Oxford (OMS) ;
- b) a paid post as Chair of the Cabot Institute of the University of Bristol (UoB) ;
- c) a paid post as an Adviser to the Food Division of Marks and Spencer Group plc (M&S);
- d) an unpaid post as a Trustee of the Natural History Museum (NHM);
- e) an unpaid post as Chair of the Global Academies Panel with the University of Edinburgh (UoE);
- f) an unpaid post as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE); and
- g) a paid post as a Member of the External Advisory Board with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research Singapore (A*STAR).

As you know, Sir John's last day in Crown service was on 31 March 2013. He hopes to take up the appointments: with NHM and RASE as soon as possible; with OMS, UoB, M&S and UoE in May 2013; and with A*STAR in October 2013.

When considering the applications, the Committee noted that his proposed roles will not involve dealings with his former Department or Government. They also took into account that, whilst in post, he only had limited official dealings with the OMS, UoB, M&S, NHM and

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Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,
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RASE, none of which give rise to any propriety concerns. The Committee noted that Sir John has not been involved in any contractual dealings with his prospective employers. Furthermore, he has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors or been involved in the development or administration of any departmental policy or decisions that could have affected any his prospective employers or its competitors.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the applications be approved subject to the condition that for two years from his last day of service, Sir John should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employers or their 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".

I should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir John takes up any of these appointments, or if it 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.

Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his roles with any of his employers, as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Once the appointments have been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Dean Ponder
Committee Secretariat

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