

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 May 2016

Present

Baroness Browning (Chair)
Mark Addison
Sir Alex Allan
Lord German
Mary Jo Jacobi
Terence Jagger
Baroness Liddell
John Wood

Secretariat
Ekpe Attah
Catherine Millington
Maggie O'Boyle
Nicola Richardson
Clare Salters

Chair's Update

1. The Chair updated the Committee on her recent appearance before the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC), where she had given evidence on the work of ACOPA.
2. As part of her ongoing programme of meetings with Permanent Secretaries to raise awareness of the Business Appointment Rules, the Chair had recently met Clare Moriarty, Permanent Secretary at Defra. She was next due to meet Leslie Evans, Permanent Secretary at the Scottish Government, and Jon Thomson, Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary at HMRC.

Minutes of the last meeting

3. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 February 2016, were approved.

Business Appointments Applications dealt with in 2015-16

4. The Committee noted the update provided by the secretariat on applications dealt with in 2015-16. Once finalised, these figures would be reported on in the Committee's annual report.

Discussion with MOD

5. The Committee met with Esther Wallington, Civilian HR Director, MOD, to discuss business appointments applications.

6. The Committee agreed that sharing information between the Department and the Committee was key to working well together. They also discussed the possibility of more being done to alert individuals to the Business Appointment Rules, and potential restrictions they might face after leaving office, during the recruitment phase.

Potential agenda items for the Away Day

7. The Committee discussed the agenda for the away day, which was due to take place on Wednesday 22 June.
8. Members would contact the secretariat to confirm their preference of topics for discussion.

Communications

9. The Press Officer, Maggie O'Boyle, updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

Freedom of Information

10. The secretariat provided an update on FOI. This included a complaint made to the ICO about the Committee's recent handling of two FOI requests. Responses to the ICO's questions about these requests were being prepared.

Any Other Business

11. The next Committee meeting would take place on Wednesday 19 October.

Committee Secretariat
May 2016