



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/7, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk

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

Permanent Secretary
Home Office

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: JONATHAN REES

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Jonathan Rees, former Director General at the Government Equalities Office (GEO). He is seeking permission to accept an appointment as an Independent Board Member for Ombudsman Services, working two days per month.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that Mr Rees had no direct contractual dealings with the Ombudsman Services, nor was he responsible for anyone who did. He did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors of the Ombudsman Services and was not involved in the development or administration of any policy that could affect his prospective employer or its competitors.

The Committee took into account that Mr Rees's proposed role may include contact with some Government Departments and/or regulators with an interest in consumer issues, but that no contact with the Home Office or DCMS/GEO was proposed, and that the position would not involve lobbying.

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

- Mr Rees should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant;
- for 12 months from his last day of service, Mr Rees should not have direct involvement with work connected to the Home Office or DCMS; and
- for two years from his last day of service, Mr Rees should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer or its clients.

UNCLASSIFIED

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 also be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Rees takes up the employment with Ombudsman Services, 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 complied with the rules.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Millington
Committee Secretariat