

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 February 2013

Present

Lord Macdonald (Acting Chair)
Mr Mark Addison
Lord Dholakia
Sir Hugh Stevenson
Lord Walker

Secretariat

Clare Salters
Ekpe Attah (Secretary)
Rajvinder Bahia
Claire Hanna
Maggie O'Boyle
Beth Watson

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Lord Lang, Sir Colin Budd and Ms Mary Jo Jacobi.

Minutes of last meeting

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 5 December 2012 were agreed, subject to it being made clear that Sir Hugh Stevenson had recused himself from the case consideration and joined the meeting once it had been concluded.

Chairman's update

3. The annual report had been published as planned on 19 December.
4. The Committee noted the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence's letter to the Chairman about his department's review of its business appointments processes. It welcomed the measures MoD had put in place to strengthen the application of the Rules within the department.
5. The Committee considered an application from a former Crown servant from MoD and agreed, subject to reconfirmation of the department's views, to uphold its original advice (Lord Walker recused himself from this discussion). It also considered an application from a more junior official, which had been referred to it by the Valuation Office Agency for independent advice, and agreed to support the department's original decision.
6. It was noted that Beth Watson would soon be leaving the secretariat on promotion and the Committee thanked her for all her good work and support. It was also noted that Clare Salters and Dean Ponder had joined the secretariat since the previous meeting, and they were welcomed by the Committee.
7. In light of the unusually high number of applications being received from a variety of departments, the Committee asked the secretariat to circulate a table showing the

range of civil service grades and military ranks and their equivalents.

Compliance update

8. The Committee noted the recent paper on the informal compliance assurance process and asked to be updated again on progress at its next meeting.

Communications

9. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

Freedom of Information

10. There were three new FOI cases to report.

Any other business

11. The next meeting would be on Wednesday 17 April at 2.30pm at 1 Horse Guards Road (the date was subsequently moved to Wednesday 24 April at the same time and place).

Committee Secretariat
March 2013