

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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27 March 2013

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting a paid appointment as a Strategic Adviser with Montrose Associates after leaving office on 19 October 2012.

When considering your request the Committee noted that there is no connection between the work of Montrose Associates and your Ministerial roles as either Secretary of State for International Development or Chief Whip, and that you had no official dealings with them or their competitors. It also noted that your main focus will be on helping Montrose to develop its business and that you will not be engaged in lobbying Government.

As the three-month waiting period usually observed by former Cabinet Ministers has expired, we see no reason why you should not accept this appointment forthwith subject to the condition that, for two years from your last day in office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government, on behalf of your new employer or its clients.

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former minister 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 this appointment or, if earlier, when 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.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

Lord Lang of Monkton

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,
Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman), Rt Hon Lord Macdonald of Tradeston CBE
Sir Hugh Stevenson, General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE