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From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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15 January 2013

You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a part-time, paid appointment (working one day per month) as a Non-Executive Director with The Social Investment Business (TSIB).

In considering your application, the Committee took into account that, whilst you did not have any official dealings with TSIB during your last two years in office, TSIB's Chairman attended a meeting of the Cabinet committee on Social Justice of which you were a member. The Committee also noted that you had some official dealings with a competitor of TSIB but that you left office before you would have had access to the first management information about a scheme that was managed by the relevant competitor. The Committee further noted that it is now four months since you left office and that you have made it clear to TSIB that you will be unable to lobby the UK Government for two years from the date that you left office.

Our advice is that, on the understanding that you would not draw on any privileged information from your time in Government, we see no reason why you should not take up the appointment forthwith, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) for two years from the date of your leaving office, you should not advise on the terms of any bid or contract related to the work of the MOJ; and
- 2) for two years from the date of your leaving office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its parent company or their clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant should not

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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 the appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing this 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with TSIB as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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.

Lord Lang of Monkton

Crispin Blunt Esq MP