

*From the Chairman*



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

G/5 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0842

Email: [acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk)

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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting the following part-time, paid appointments:

- as Non-Executive Director (NED) of Tamara Mellon Inc; and
- as Chairman of your own personal investment company (Herriot Ltd), which is a role that you wish to resume.

The Committee noted that your investment in Tamara Mellon Inc will be through a bespoke solely owned company (Wilton Place Inc). The sole purpose of the company (of which you will be the Director) is exclusively for your particular investment in Tamara Mellon Inc.

The Committee noted that no lobbying of Government is anticipated in your proposed role as NED of Tamara Mellon Inc. The Committee took into account that you have known Ms Mellon for a number of years, and prior to becoming a Minister. In her role as a creator of Jimmy Choo, Ms Mellon joined two trade missions with you to promote UK businesses as a Business Ambassador, while also representing Jimmy Choo. However, you have not had access to commercially sensitive information about any of your proposed employers competitors during your last two years in office.

In relation to your application to resume your role as Chairman of Herriot Ltd, the Committee noted that there is no relationship between the company and your former Department. Furthermore, you have not had official dealings with any competitors of the company.

Taking into account all the circumstances, including your role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, our advice is that we see no reason why you should not take up the appointments with Tamara Mellon Inc and Herriot Ltd forthwith, provided that:

- i. you do not draw on privileged information available to you as a Minister or in your role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy;

- ii. you make it clear in any activities you undertake on behalf of your new employers that you are acting as their representative and not as a Government representative; and
- iii. for two years from your last day of service, you do not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of your new employers 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 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 the appointment, or if 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your roles with Tamara Mellon Inc, Wilton Place Inc and Herriot Ltd, as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointments have been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the applications, 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

Lord Marland