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OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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DAME CHRISTINE BEASLEY

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered the applications from Dame Christine Beasley to accept part-time appointments as Chair of the Council of the University of Buckinghamshire, and as a Non-executive Director of the NHS Trust Development Authority, following her retirement from the civil service on 30 June 2012.

With respect to the University of Buckinghamshire application, the Committee noted that Dame Christine had had no official dealings with her prospective employer or its competitors. With respect to the NHS Trust Development Authority application, it noted that this new body would be recruiting for the post, for which Dame Christine had submitted a speculative application, in October 2012.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that both these applications be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from her last day of service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of her new employers. 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 would be grateful if you could let us know when Dame Christine takes up these appointments, or when it is announced that she 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 she had complied with the rules.

Similarly, I would be grateful if you could ensure that she informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change her role with either the University of Buckinghamshire or with the NHS Trust

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Development Authority, as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application to the Committee.

Once the appointments have been taken up or announced, we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details of the appointments, together with the Committee's advice and the date on which she took them up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

ROGER SAMPSON