

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 February 2012

Present

Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman)
Lord Dholakia
Lord Macdonald
Sir Hugh Stevenson
Lord Walker

Secretariat

Ms Geraldine Alexander (Secretary)
Ms Elizabeth Bull (Treasury Solicitor)
Ms Kate Campbell
Ms Katie Cross
Mr Richard Jarvis
Ms Maggie O'Boyle
Ms Beth Watson

Apologies

1. Sir Colin Budd sent his apologies.

Case discussion

2. An applicant met with the Committee to discuss the provisional recommendation on his case.

Minutes of last meeting

3. The minutes of the previous meeting on 1 February 2012 were agreed.

Chairman's update

4. The interviews for new Committee members had been held and recommendations have been made to the Prime Minister. The Committee hoped that the new members would be appointed in time for the next meeting.
5. The Committee's written evidence to PASC had been sent and copied to members. The Chairman will give oral evidence on 26 March.
6. The Committee discussed two aspects of its policy. It noted that the revised consultancy policy had been published. It was unclear how the new approach will impact on the workload of the Committee and secretariat; it was agreed this should be kept under review. The Committee also agreed that, consistent with its approach to former civil servants, it should, as a general principle, seek advice from the former departments of Ministers going back at least five years from the date of the application.

7. Visits to BIS, Home Office, MOJ and DfT been undertaken since the last meeting, with further visits arranged to MOD and Health for March. It was noted that the Committee will have achieved its objective of meeting with all the main departments during the first year of the new Rules. The Committee invited the secretariat to report on the main themes coming from the visits for its next meeting.
8. Following inquiries, MOD have clarified that their policy of interchange is limited to secondments rather than for individuals leaving crown service/military service.

Meeting with the Head of the Home Civil Service

9. The Chairman and Secretary were due to meet Sir Bob Kerslake on 6 March. The Cabinet Secretary, Sir Jeremy Heywood, would also be joining the meeting.

Restraint of trade

10. The Committee discussed a paper by the Treasury Solicitor on restraint of trade.

Communications

11. The Committee considered a paper on its communications strategy. It agreed that it should introduce a "frequently asked questions" page on its website and invited the secretariat to draft and publish this. It also agreed that the secretariat should draft and circulate a short article on the Rules for use by departments in their internal communications.
12. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

Freedom of Information

13. The secretariat updated the Committee on recent FOI cases.

Any other business

14. The next meeting would be on 25 April at 1 Horse Guards Road.

Committee Secretariat
March 2012