



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

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Mal Swann

23 July 2014

Dear Mal,

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR GARY COWARD KBE CBE – SM&A**

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Lieutenant General Sir Gary Coward, the former Chief of Materiel (Land) in Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S), who is seeking a part time, paid appointment as a consultant to SM&A as an advisor to Project MARSHALL (formerly JMATTs).

As you know, Sir Gary retired from the Army on 24 October 2012.

The Committee noted that MOD has no relationship with SM&A and the appointment will not include any dealings with Sir Gary's former department. The Committee also took into account that Sir Gary has had no official or contractual dealings with his prospective employer or their competitors and he has not been responsible for anyone who has had such dealings. Furthermore, he has not been involved in any other work, such as regulatory work or the award of grants, which could have affected his prospective employer or any competitors and he has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about any competitors.

The Secretary of State for Defence has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved subject to the following condition:

- for two years from his last day of service, Sir Gary should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, its partners or its clients.

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 should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Gary takes up this

appointment, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for convenience). 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 he had complied with the Rules. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with SM&A, as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish details of this letter on the Committee's website, and include the main details of the appointment, 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 the website and in the next annual report.

**DEAN PONDER**