



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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HR Director, DEFRA

BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: BRONWYN HILL

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Bronwyn Hill, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Ms Hill proposes to take up a part-time unpaid role as Trustee of The Royal Parks.

The Royal Parks is a new public body that oversees the management of the Royal Parks in London. Ms Hill's role will be to provide Board level strategic oversight and good governance, helping to secure a successful transition to charitable status.

In considering this application, the Committee took into account that this is an unpaid position. The Committee also noted that Ms Hill had no dealings with The Royal Parks nor did she have access to any relevant commercially sensitive information while in office.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisations or persons to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service; and
- for two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The Royal Parks.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "should not engage in communication with Government - including

Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] 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 could ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Hill takes up this position, or if 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.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Ms Hill informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

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.

Yours sincerely

Alex Morrow
Committee Secretariat