



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ
Telephone: 020 7271 0839
Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: SIR JON DAY CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Jon Day, former Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee, in relation to appointments with Southampton University, Credit Agricole and The Battlefields Trust.

Director, Southampton University Centre for Homeland Security

Sir Jon proposes to become the Director of a new Homeland Security Centre based at Southampton University. This will be the UK's first academic body with such a focus. Its aim is to work in partnership with Government, the private sector and academia to break down boundaries and build practical cooperation. The Centre will offer an MSc in homeland security and resilience; a homeland security and resilience research team; and an assessments team to produce authoritative analysis and challenge for expert audiences.

Sir Jon explained in his application that Southampton University's decision to focus on cyber, resilience and other aspects of homeland security is in line with HMG's priorities and will add to the UK's attractiveness as a partner at home and abroad.

The Committee noted that this is a paid role, involving three days' work per week.

Special Advisor, Credit Agricole

Sir Jon has been invited to become a senior defence and security expert to provide objective advice on the international context of Credit Agricole's business. This post is paid and will involve two days' work per month.

The post involves assisting Credit Agricole by: identifying trends in defence industries; providing analysis of individual nations' defence strategies, their impact on equipment procurement and countries' political issues; introducing the company to Government officials in countries buying equipment from clients.

The Committee noted that Sir Jon has had no prior official contact with the company. It also noted that Sir Jon has incorporated into his contract the following three terms (the second and third terms are not time dependent):

- “I will not be asked to become personally involved in lobbying the UK on behalf of Credit Agricole or its clients until two years after my last day of Crown service on 15 January 2016.
- I will not draw on, disclose or use privileged information made available to me as a Crown servant.
- I may exempt myself from any area of the bank’s business where I judge my role would run directly counter to the UK’s national security interests.”

Trustee, The Battlefields Trust

This is an unpaid position with The Battlefield Trust, a charity and limited liability company, which seeks to protect historic battlefield sites in England. He would join the charity as a trustee to help provide governance, practical experience of managing similar bodies and challenge.

The Committee noted that this role would not include any contact or dealings with Government.

Advice

When considering this application the Committee took into account that the Cabinet Office has no reservations about any of these appointments and is supportive of the role with Southampton University, which it considers to be in the public interest. It was also mindful that Sir Jon would not take up these appointments until mid January 2017, one year after his departure from the Civil Service.

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

- He should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- For two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Credit Agricole; Southampton University Centre for Homeland Security or The Battlefields Trust or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy; or secure business or funding on behalf of these organisations. This does not preclude routine contact on matters aligned with Government policy relating to the role with Southampton University.

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. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

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 would be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Jon takes up these positions, or if it is announced that he 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 he had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Sir Jon informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his roles as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Once these 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 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

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat