

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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February 2016

You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part time, paid appointment with the Gyro Ltd, a global advertising, communications and creative agency.

The Committee noted that you had been invited to take up the role of chair of a new "Global Sustainability Practice" within Gyro Ltd. Your role will involve providing advice on strategy and hosting events for clients, with a focus on marketing, communications and creative content. It is likely to amount to three days' work per month. You will be joining Gyro Ltd but initially remuneration will be paid by the parent company Pegasus Capital Advisers, LP, a New York private equity group. In due course it could be supplemented by additional payments from Gyro Ltd.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that while you met Pegasus Capital LP twice while you were a minister, these meetings took place nearly three years ago. The Committee also noted that you have a longstanding connection with Gyro Ltd, having been a small shareholder since 2007. The Committee took into account that you do not anticipate that the role will require any contact or dealings with your former department or government more generally. It also noted that eighteen months have passed since you left your last ministerial position.

Taking into account the specific facts in this case, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- That you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a minister; and
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Gyro Ltd, its parent company Pegasus Capital Advisers LP, or their clients.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers 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 would inform us as soon as you take up the appointment, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with Gyro Ltd, as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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 applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Lord Barker