

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting part-time, paid appointment as non-executive chairman of Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited, owner and operator of Heathrow Airport. The Committee noted that you had been offered the job following an application process.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that nine months have passed since you left your Ministerial position in HM Treasury. It also noted that the Treasury has found no records of submissions or advice that indicate that you had access to commercially sensitive information or unannounced government policy relevant to Heathrow Airport. However, the Committee were clear that a two-year lobbying restriction should apply in this case.

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 Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd. (In particular you should not use your Whitehall contacts to influence policy or secure business).

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 that 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 Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd, as depending on the circumstances, it might 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

Lord Deighton