



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice on a part-time, paid appointment with Dixons Carphone Plc, a specialist electrical and telecommunications retailer and services company.

Your role would involve becoming Deputy Chairman. It will be a non-executive role working around 1 day per month.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that, during your last two years in office, you had no official dealings with Dixons Carphone and you are not aware of a relationship between your future employer and former departments, FCO and BIS. You have also stated that you have had no dealings with any competitors of Dixons Carphone.

Taking into account these circumstances, and the fact your former departments had no propriety concerns regarding this application, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this appointment subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) 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 Dixons Carphone Plc, its subsidiaries or customers.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that 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 this 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 as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once this 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.

Baroness Browning

The Lord Livingston of Parkhead