



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/7 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

24 June 2016

Dear Sir Ed,

The Committee has considered your request to accept a commission under your independent consultancy.

You will become a member of the Advisory Board of ENGIE, UK (formerly GDF Suez). The position is part-time (8 days a year) and paid.

The Committee is aware that ENGIE in the UK is a leading energy and services group, employing 20,000 people. NuGen (a joint venture between Toshiba and ENGIE) is working on a project to develop a new generation of nuclear power station at Moorside, West Cumbria. As such, DECC is in regular contact with NuGen although this engagement post-dates the time you were in post as Secretary of State.

The Committee noted that it is now more than a year since you left Ministerial office.

The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy. Your consultancy is in the area of energy and climate change, covering the full spectrum of the energy industry – from renewables to offshore UKCS, from community energy to the UN climate change talks. Your aim is to help bodies such as companies, business consultancies, investors, developers, law firms and non-governmental bodies to develop thought leadership in the energy and climate change sector, to understand past energy policies and to understand how future policy in the UK, the EU and elsewhere might develop.

The conditions that continue to apply to your consultancy are:

- You should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its subsidiaries or its clients;
- You should not involve yourself in work related to Hinkley Point C or any commercial deal in which DECC is currently involved; and
- Once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each subsequent individual

commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

The Committee would wish to draw your attention to the condition that precludes you from being involved in any commercial deal in which DECC is currently involved. **For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibits you from participating in any negotiations between NuGen and DECC in relation to the proposed nuclear power station at Moorside.**

The Committee would also emphasise that, under the lobbying ban, **you should not make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of ENGIE UK, its subsidiaries, partners or clients.**

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.

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.

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat