



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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**Business Appointments Application - Tera Allas**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Tera Allas, the former Director General for Strategic Advice at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) who is seeking permission to take up a part-time paid business appointment as a Board Member of Innovate UK. Mrs Allas resigned from Crown service on 31 January 2014 and wishes to begin work under this new appointment as soon as possible.

The Committee noted that Innovate UK is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by BIS and that it is possible therefore that this appointment could involve contact or dealings with her former Department. This will be primarily so that Board members understand the broader context in which Innovate UK operates. For example, this may include the policy context surrounding innovation policies, higher education policy, enterprise policy and industrial strategy.

The Committee considered the fact that Mrs Allas has had official contact with Innovate UK in her role as DG, Strategic Advice, and that she has also been involved in the development and administration of Departmental policy and policy decisions that have affected Innovate UK in her role as DG Strategy, Analysis and Better Regulation.

The Committee has taken into account that this appointment will not include any contractual or financial dealings with BIS and that Mrs Allas has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors of Innovate UK.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on privileged information available to her as a Crown servant and

- for two years from her last day of service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying\* the UK Government on behalf of her new employer or its clients.

The Committee further noted that the lobbying ban would not apply to communications with Government on matters that are an integral part of the normal course of business for the organization concerned.

\*Lobbying in this context means that the former Crown servant should not engage in communication with Government (including Ministers, special advisers and officials) with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy 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 could inform us of your final decision and send us a copy of your letter to Mrs Allas informing her of the outcome of her application. Please also ensure that we are told when Mrs Allas takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that she will do so. 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>) including, with your agreement, a copy of your letter.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Mrs Allas informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change her role with Innovate UK because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely,

**Baljit Rayit**  
**Committee Secretariat**