

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2015

Present

Baroness Browning (Chair)

Mark Addison

Sir Alex Allan

Lord German

Mary Jo Jacobi

Terence Jagger

Baroness Liddell

John Wood

Secretariat

Ekpe Attah

Catherine Millington

Alex Newton

Maggie O'Boyle

Nicola Richardson

Clare Salters

Alex Young

Apologies and introductions

1. There were no apologies.
2. The Chair introduced a new member of the secretariat, Nicola Richardson, and thanked Alex Newton and Alex Young, who would be moving to new roles, for the support they had provided the Committee.

Chair's Update

3. As she did when all Ministers left Government, the Chair had recently written to Grant Shapps MP to remind him of his obligations under the business appointments rules.

Minutes of the last meeting

4. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 October, were approved subject to minor amendments.

Case consideration

5. The Committee met an applicant who wanted to discuss its provisional advice on his proposed business appointment, after which it gave further consideration to the circumstances surrounding the appointment and what the role would entail. Following discussion, the secretariat was asked to circulate a revised draft for members' comments, which would maintain the safeguards and limitations the Committee had considered necessary without limiting legitimate activity on the part of the applicant.

Communications

6. The Press Officer, Maggie O'Boyle, updated the Committee on recent communications activity.

Freedom of Information

7. There were no new FOI requests. The case relating to the Committee, referred to at the October meeting, was still with the Information Commissioner's Office for adjudication.

Any Other Business

8. Meeting dates for 2016 had now been confirmed. The next Committee meeting would take place on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

Committee Secretariat

December 2015