



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: VICE ADMIRAL PETER HUDSON**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Vice Admiral Peter Hudson, former Commander, NATO Maritime Command, NATO Allied Command, who proposes to establish an independent consultancy.

Vice Admiral Hudson was Commander, NATO Maritime Command, NATO Allied Command between February 2013 and October 2015. He was responsible for the operational output of forces assigned to NATO. Between January 2011 and February 2013 he was assistant chief of staff, Fleet HQ Portsmouth, where he headed up the Capability and Support Divisions. His last day in Crown service was 29 January 2016.

Vice Admiral Hudson's NATO role was focused on the international operational arena and did not involve direct responsibility for delivery of any MOD or Royal Navy commercial programmes.

His consultancy will centre on the future operational landscape and potential crises as well as highlighting capability shortfalls across Europe. He expects to undertake work that will utilise his strategic understanding of the international community, to engage in training roles and not to target individual equipment programmes. Examples of the type of commissions he proposes to take on include:

- Strategic advice on international maritime activity, through NATO and the European Union;
- Maritime security options in de-stable areas such as the Indian Ocean, West Africa and the South China Sea;
- Training of NATO civilian/ military teams in preparation for on-call tasking;
- Advice on future evolution of warfare and capabilities required to counter trends such as cyber and information denial.

When considering this application the Committee took into account that the MOD panel expressed no concerns about Vice Admiral Hudson taking on commissions as an independent consultant, subject to a 2-year lobbying ban.

The Committee considered that given some of the commissions he intends to take on are closely linked to his most recent role as Commander NATO Maritime Command, it was appropriate for there to be a gap between him leaving the MoD and setting up an independent consultancy.

The Secretary of State for Defence accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Vice Admiral Hudson should not establish an independent consultancy, subject to the following conditions:

- A waiting period of six months from his last day of Crown service;
- He should not draw on any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service;
- For two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of his clients or those he advises;
- For 12 months from his last day of service he should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD; and
- For two years from his last day of service, before accepting any new commission he should apply to the Committee for approval to confirm that it is acceptable under the Committee's guidelines. In considering the matter on such further reference, the Committee may seek the views of relevant departments. (If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy he will be expected to submit a fresh application).

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "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".

In line with our usual practice, we will publish details of any commission(s) that Vice Admiral Hudson takes up on our website and include the main details of the application(s), together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson  
**Committee Secretariat**