

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about a part-time appointment as a Consultant for the University of South Wales.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that your role would involve chairing a working group on the anti-poverty role of the university, overseeing its role in the Cardiff and Valleys City Deal and providing strategic advice on the university's role in teacher education.

The Committee noted that you had some contact with the university during your time as Minister for Education and Skills, as you met with the vice chancellors of various universities, and that you were involved in the initiation of reviews into higher education funding and teacher education. However, as funding and regulation of universities is conducted at arm's length, you had no involvement in those areas, and the Welsh Government has no concerns about you taking up this role.

Taking into account all the circumstances the Committee sees no reason why you should not accept this role, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations to which this advice refers) any 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 Welsh Government on behalf of the University of South Wales, its students, staff or alumni. Nor should you make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business or funding on behalf of the University of South Wales.

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 or otherwise.

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 this role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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 application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Huw Lewis