

*From the Chair*



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

G/08 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

February 2016

You asked for the Committee's advice on a new role as Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

When considering this application the Committee noted that the AIIB is a newly created multilateral development bank with a focus on investment in infrastructure in Asia, and that your role would involve being part of its senior management team, and serving as a focal point of communication among the Board of Directors, the leadership team and its shareholders, the Board of Governors.

The Committee took into account the fact that the UK Government actively supports the AIIB, is a shareholder and was one of its founding members. Bearing this in mind, and taking into account the views of your former department, the Committee believes that the usual lobbying ban for former Ministers should be waived in this case.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this appointment, subject to the following condition:

- That you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister.

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. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Minister "should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers,

*From the Chair*

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”.

As this appointment has already been announced we will now include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice on it, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our next annual report.

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Sir Danny Alexander