

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Baroness Northover,

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting an unpaid appointment as a Visiting Professor for the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI), part of Imperial College London.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account the nature of your appointment with IGHI, specifically that the appointment is a part-time, unpaid position to assist with research and teaching and that the role will not include any lobbying of Government.

The Committee also noted that your former Department did not have any concerns about this appointment. Although DfID does not provide funding to IGHI directly, members of staff receive funding from joint programmes of which DfID is one funder amongst many. More generally, as one of the UK's foremost higher education institutions, members of staff of Imperial College will have bid for DfID funds in the past and led DfID-funded programmes (and will continue to do so in future). However, the Committee agreed with the Department that neither of these factors represents a conflict of interest in the context of your appointment with IGHI.

We therefore see no reason why you should not accept this appointment subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on any privileged information available to you from your time in Government; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of IGHI or Imperial College London.

Additionally, while recognising that your appointment will be part-time and unpaid, given the relationship between DfID and IGHI/Imperial, set out above, we feel that it is worth

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adding, to avoid any perception that this might be the case, that you should not advise IGHI/Imperial on any bids for DfID funding.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way: Lobbying in this context means that the former 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”.

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up this appointment or, if earlier, when 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.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Baroness Northover