



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Sir Ed,

You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a commission under your independent consultancy.

The project will involve you chairing a board for a project that is looking into a business idea around establishing a new form of energy company. The project will focus on local authorities becoming suppliers to their own estate, sourced from local renewables generation. It will examine the feasibility of consolidating the purchase regionally and the best supply structure that might work in each case. It is also considering the circumstances in which supply by local authorities to local businesses and residents might be viable.

The Committee understands that the aspiration is that the project will lead to the development and launch of a new business. It would expect you to revert to seek further advice should you propose taking on a role in any new business that is set up.

The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy. Your consultancy is in the area of energy and climate change, covering the full spectrum of the energy industry – from renewables to offshore UKCS, from community energy to the UN climate change talks. Your aim is to help bodies such as companies, business consultancies, investors, developers, law firms and non-governmental bodies to develop thought leadership in the energy and climate change sector, to understand past energy policies and to understand how future policy in the UK, the EU and elsewhere might develop.

The conditions that continue to apply to your consultancy are:

- You should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government;

- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its subsidiaries or its clients;
- You should not involve yourself in work related to Hinkley Point C or any commercial deal in which DECC is currently involved; and
- Once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each subsequent individual commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat