



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/8 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

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Clare Moriarty
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dear Ms Moriarty,

Business Appointments Application: Bronwyn Hill CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Bronwyn Hill, the former Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer at Defra. She has applied to accept a part-time, paid appointment as a non-executive board member of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

Ms Hill was Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer at Defra between 2011 and July 2015. Her last day in the Civil Service was 31 July 2015.

As a non-executive board member, Ms Hill will be responsible for:

- setting and delivering ONR's strategic aims and objectives within the policy and resources framework agreed with Ministers;
- overseeing the budget and financial operation, ensuring ONR complies with the statutory and administrative rules for the use of public money;
- ensuring that effective arrangements are in place to provide assurance on governance, risk management and internal control; and
- appointing the Chief Nuclear Inspector and Chief Executive Officer, setting their performance objectives and remuneration, with Ministerial consent.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that Ms Hill had no direct contractual dealings with ONR over her last two years of service, nor was she responsible for anyone who did. She also stated that she had no official dealings with ONR.

The Committee noted the views of Ms Hill's former department, who had no concerns regarding this application.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's advice that there is no reason why Ms Hill should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time as a Crown Servant;
- for two years from her last day in Crown Service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of ONR.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a 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 former Civil Servants "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".

Please ensure that we are told when Ms Hill takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that she will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://www.gov.uk/acoba>) including a copy of this letter.

I would be grateful if you would ask that Ms Hill informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change this role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Alex Young
Caseworker