



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: BERNARD GALTON**

The Committee has been asked to consider a retrospective application from Bernard Galton, a former Director General in the Welsh Government. He has taken up an appointment as a non-executive director in a company set up to pursue a joint venture (JV) between three Welsh local authorities, Bridgend, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils, and Capita Property and Infrastructure. Mr Galton was DG with responsibility for senior recruitment and strategic HR support to the CEO, NHS, from 2013 until 2014. Prior to that he was DG, People, Places and Corporate Services from 2009 until 2013 His last day in Crown service was 31 August 2014.

The Committee noted with concern that Mr Galton's application had been submitted some time after he had accepted and taken up the appointment, prompted by media coverage referring to the role, and that the business appointments rules for civil servants specify that retrospective applications are not normally accepted. Mr Galton has apologised to the Committee for this oversight and explained that there were extenuating personal circumstances. While the Committee is unwilling to give retrospective approval for this appointment, it is willing to provide the Welsh Government with a view on this occasion.

The Committee noted that Mr Galton's role is to develop the JV Board and to bring his personal experience of operating at Board level to improve the way the Board and its governance operates. It also noted his assurance that he does not have, and has not had, responsibility for lobbying Government ministers or officials, and that he will not become involved in any procurement activity that Capita P&I may engage in with either the public or private sectors.

Additionally, both he and the Welsh Government have confirmed that he did not have any direct contractual dealings with Capita P&I during his last two years of service (nor any significant dealings before that) nor was he responsible for people who had. Nor did he have official dealings with competitors of Capita P&I, the sector in which it operates or representatives of that sector during his last two years of service (or access to commercially sensitive information about its competitors).

Finally, the Committee is aware that Capita Business Services received grant funding from the Welsh Government from the education and technology departments in 2012 and 2013, respectively, but that Mr Galton would not have been involved in these discussions or decisions.

Had the appointment not been taken up before the Committee could offer its advice, the Committee would have advised the First Minister that it saw no reason why Mr Galton should not take up the appointment subject to the restrictions in the rules on drawing on privileged information from an individual's time in Crown service, and lobbying Government. The Committee notes Mr Galton's assurances that he has honoured these conditions to date and will continue to do so.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Ekpe Attah  
Committee Secretariat