

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting an appointment as Head of the London Office and Director of International Relations for Falcon and Associates, an organisation that provides strategic advice to the leadership of Dubai.

When considering your application, the Committee noted that your role will be full time, and will involve heading the London office, with frequent travel to Dubai. You will have particular responsibility for: international relations, with particular emphasis on potential investors; sports and major events strategy, including Expo 2020; and special projects as they arise.

The Committee took into account that you had no official contact with Falcon and Associates while in ministerial office and noted your statement that the role will not involve lobbying the UK Government. The Committee took into account that, unusually, the UK Government overtly supported Dubai's bid for Expo 2020 – a bid that Falcon and Associates was at the core of. However, this was a decision made by the Foreign Secretary and was before you took up any role in the FCO, so they do not believe that this fact gives rise to any concerns in your case.

The Committee noted that your former department had no concerns about this appointment.

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

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

I should stress that lobbying in this context means that you should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to your own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which you are employed, or to whom you 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

Rt Hon Sir Hugh Robertson KCMG MP