



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Rt Hon David Willetts MP



13 October 2014

Ref: 1415/12M

Dear Mr Willetts,

Business Appointment Applications


You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting the following appointments:



- A part time paid visiting Professor at King's College London (KCL)

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that you did have official dealings with your prospective employers during your last two years in office, but these were in the normal course of business as part of your ministerial responsibilities.

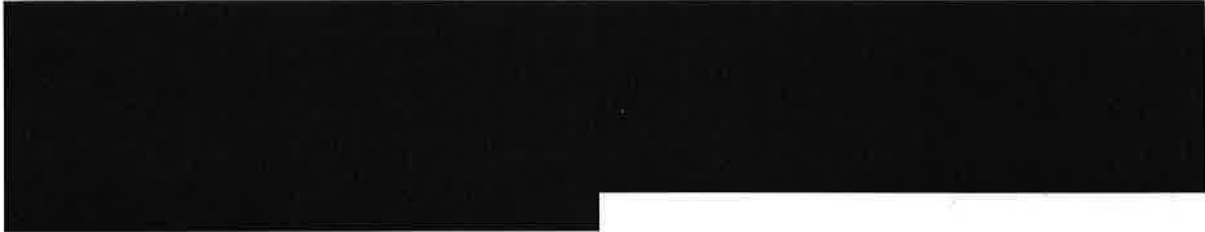
The Committee also noted that there are contractual relationships between your prospective employers and former Department. 

 The Committee further noted that KCL receives indirect funding from BIS via the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Research Councils, and that BIS engages with educational institutions on an arms-length basis and that you did not determine specific institutional allocations.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is content to approve the appointments subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister; 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 your new employer, its parent company or its clients.

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 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 the appointment, or if 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role at KCL [REDACTED], as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointments have been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Sir Hugh Stevenson