



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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14 November 2014

Dear Mr Banks,

You asked for the Committee's advice about setting up an independent consultancy and accepting a commission under that consultancy with Ras Al Khaimah Development LLC, having left Government in July 2014.

Your independent consultancy will provide strategic advice to international clients on geo-political issues, investor relations, corporate strategy, financial public relations and international public policy.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account the fact that you stated that during your last two years in office you did not have any official dealings with your prospective client and you are not aware of any relationship, either contractual or non-contractual between the client and DECC, BIS and FCO. You stated that during your last two years in office you did not have any official dealings with competitors of the client.

You further stated that none of the advice you would be providing to Ras Al Khaimah relates to the UK and that, going forward, the intention is to continue focusing on international projects. You have no intention to offer or undertake any lobbying of HM Government either now or in the future, or to seek any work from any company with whom you may have had a commercial relationship as a Minister.

The Committee also considered the views of your former Departments, in particular the view that given your ministerial brief as Minister for Business Engagement with India, there should be a waiting period in relation to commissions involving India.

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

- 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 or its clients;
- given your ministerial brief as Minister for Business Engagement with India, in relation to commissions involving India, there is a waiting period of 6 months from your last day in ministerial office and
- once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the **Committee directly** that each 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.

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 commission, 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 with Ras Al Khaimah Development LLC as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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

Yours sincerely,



Sir Hugh Stevenson

Greg Barker MP