

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/08 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0841

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

August 2015

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting a paid appointment as Senior Representative in Europe at the City of London Corporation, starting on 1 September 2015.

When considering your application, the Committee noted that you have had official dealings with your prospective employer while in office, however this was at least three years ago; your former departments have raised no objections to the proposed appointment; and it is almost two years since your last day in Government. You have indicated that the role would involve interaction with the UK Government, although it would not involve lobbying.

We see no reason why you should not accept the appointment subject to the conditions that:

- you should not draw on, disclose, or use for the benefit of yourself or the City of London Corporation any privileged information available to you as a Minister from your time in Government; and
- for two years from your last day in office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government Ministers or Crown Servants, including Special Advisers, on behalf of the City of London Corporation, or the residents or the commercial interests it represents.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister has had access as a consequence of his or her office and which has not been made publically 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 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 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".

Members:

Mark Addison CB, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),
Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger CBE,
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

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.

Baroness Browning

Members:

Mark Addison CB, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),
Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger CBE,
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood