



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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HR Director, HMRC

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LIN HOMER DBC

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Dame Lin Homer, former Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). She proposes to take up a part-time role to undertake a review of members' remuneration at Suffolk County Council.

In considering the application, the Committee took into account that this is an unpaid position. The Committee also noted that Dame Lin had no official dealings with Suffolk County Council whilst in office. Whilst Dame Lin was involved in the development of departmental tax policy, this raises no propriety concerns.

Further, the Committee took account of the view of Dame Lin's former department, who had no concerns about this appointment.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the position be subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service; and
- for two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/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".

I should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Dame Lin takes up this position, or if it is announced that she will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Lin informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

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

Catriona Marshall
Committee Secretariat