

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a role with Malaria Consortium as a Trustee.

Malaria Consortium is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) specialising in the prevention, control and treatment of malaria and other communicable diseases, particularly in developing countries. This role is an unpaid, part time role involving four days' work a year.

In considering your application the Committee noted you had no official dealings with Malaria Consortium while in office; nor did you have responsibility for decisions on funding for malaria related NGOs/charities. The Committee also took into account that it was unlikely you would have contact with Government in this role.

The Committee sought the views of your former department, which did not have any concerns about this appointment.

Taking into account the specific facts in this case, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in Government; 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 Malaria Consortium, or make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of Malaria Consortium.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers 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 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 that 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 Malaria Consortium as depending on the circumstances, it might 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 applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Baroness Northover