

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about the following roles:

Chairman of the Advisory Board, International eGames Committee

This is a part-time, paid role. You would chair the advisory board, assisting with good governance, hosting meetings with staff and liaising with identified host countries for the first e-Games tournaments in Korea in 2018 and Japan in 2020. This role is likely to include contact with Government, as the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is supportive of the aims of the e-Games Committee.

Trustee of BRITDOC Charitable Trust

BRITDOC Charitable Trust is a small charity that promotes documentaries and documentary making in the UK and abroad. You have been invited to take up an unpaid role as a trustee.

Trustee of National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (NYT)

You have been asked to become a non-executive director of the NYT (directors are also trustees of the charity and known as NYT's Council). This is also an unpaid role.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that Government has no direct relationship with any of these organisations. It noted that while DCMS is supportive of the aims of the eGames Committee, it does not have a formal relationship with the Committee, and is not funding it or its activities. While NYT receives funding through the Arts Council England (an arms length body of DCMS) as one of their national portfolio organisations, and receives around £300k per annum, DCMS does not decide whether NYT should be funded or by how much.

The Committee consulted DCMS and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy, which had no concerns about these appointments.

The Committee would like to emphasise the lobbying ban set out below, which would preclude you from directly approaching Government to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of these organisations.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not take up these appointments, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the International eGames Committee; BRITDOC or the National Youth Theatre, or make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of these organisations.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act or otherwise.

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 employment with each of these organisations, 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.

Once these 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 application, 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 Ed Vaizey MP