

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 part-time, paid role as an advisory board member at OakNorth Bank, which deals with business and property finance and specialises in supporting the UK's growth businesses. You will provide advice to the executives on strategy and business development.

The Committee noted that the appointment is not likely to include any contact or dealings with your former departments or government more generally.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that your only contact with OakNorth Bank while in Ministerial office was a single meeting with the CEO, Rishi Khosla, at the time of the Indian PM's visit to the UK in Autumn 2015. The Committee was also mindful that while you had numerous meetings with the major clearing banks, connected with their support for export promotion in your role as Trade Minister, you had no involvement with any policy or regulatory issues. Nor did you have access to commercially sensitive information about any of OakNorth Bank's competitors.

When determining its advice, the Committee sought and took into account views from the Permanent Secretaries at FCO and BIS (as your previous role as Minister for Trade and Investment spanned both Departments). They thought that a six-month waiting period would be prudent to avoid any suggestion of excessively close Government links.

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

- A six-month waiting period from your last day in Ministerial office;
- 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 from your time as a Minister; and;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of OakNorth Bank or its

customers or clients, or make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts within Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of OakNorth Bank or its customers or clients.

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 OakNorth Bank 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

The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham