



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: BRONWYN HILL CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Bronwyn Hill, former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). She proposes to take up a part-time role at the University of Greenwich.

Ms Hill intends to become a member of the University Court, which is the main decision making body of the University. It has ultimate responsibility for the strategic plans of the University and for the deployment of resources. The Court monitors the overall performance of the University and holds the Vice-Chancellor accountable for effective and efficient management.

In considering this application, the Committee took into account that this is an unpaid position and is not likely to include any contact or dealings with Ms Hill's former department or Government more generally. The Committee also noted that Ms Hill had no dealings with the University while in office and that her former department had no concerns about the appointment.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

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

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 Ms Hill 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 Ms Hill 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

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat