

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2015

---

### Present

Baroness Browning (Chair)  
Mark Addison  
Sir Alex Allan  
Sir Colin Budd  
Lord German  
Mary Jo Jacobi  
Baroness Liddell  
Sir Hugh Stevenson  
Lord Walker of Aldringham

### Secretariat

Ekpe Attah  
Catherine Millington  
Maggie O'Boyle  
Clare Salters

### Minutes of the last meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 December, were approved.

### Chair's update

2. The Chair welcomed Sir Alex Allan, who had joined the Committee from 1 February.
3. The recruitment campaign run by the Cabinet Office for two other new members had been extended, with interviews scheduled for late February.
4. Members agreed that any comments on applications or requests for further information should be copied to the whole Committee.
5. The Chair had written introductory letters to all Permanent Secretaries and the First Ministers for Scotland and Wales. She had also requested meetings with the Permanent Secretaries of FCO, MOD, Cabinet Office and BIS, as well as with the business appointments panel within the MOD.
6. The Chair provided an update on decisions she had made on the Committee's behalf since the last meeting.

Transparency

7. The Committee noted that, after some initial difficulties with transition to the gov.uk website, the secretariat had worked to improve transparency and now published more information about the Committee's advice.

#### **Code of Practice**

8. The Committee considered some changes to the Code of Practice and members were invited to feed back any further comments following the meeting.
9. A broader review of the Committee's governance would be undertaken in the near future.
10. The Chair had taken the personal decision not to accept any corporate hospitality while she held her position as Chair of the Committee.

#### **Post-ministerial Government roles**

11. The Committee considered the issue of roles some former ministers were appointed to by Government after leaving ministerial office, such as Trade Envoys and Tsars. The Business Appointment Rules did not cover these positions, and it was not always clear exactly what they involved.
12. The Committee would return to this issue in the future. In the short term the application form would be amended so that any such roles were declared, and information about the role provided, so that the Committee could take this into account when considering the propriety of individuals' business appointments.

#### **Update of applications received in year to date**

13. The Committee noted the figures provided in the update.

#### **Variations to standard conditions**

14. A paper would be put to the Committee at its next meeting setting out occasions when standard conditions had been varied.

#### **Communications**

15. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

#### **Any other business**

16. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3 June at 2.30pm.
17. As it was their last meeting, the Chair thanked Sir Colin Budd, Sir Hugh Stevenson and Lord Walker for their outstanding service to the Committee over the past five years.

Committee Secretariat  
February 2015