

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting an appointment as a Non Executive Director for President Energy Plc, an independent, international oil and gas exploration and production company focused on South America.

When considering your application the Committee noted that you will have the duties and responsibilities of a non executive director of a public company and will be advising on overall appreciation and understanding of the economic and political environment in various countries as required.

The Committee took into account that you had no official dealings with President Energy, or any competitors, during your last two years in ministerial office and that you are unaware of any relationship between the organisation and the FCO.

The Committee noted that you previously sought permission to work for Peter Levine, the Executive Chairman of President Energy, as an advisor to his investment company PLLG Investment Advisors. This was an application the Committee permitted, subject to the terms of your independent consultancy, and which you state will now be replaced by the role for President Energy.

The Committee noted that your former department raised no objections about this appointment.

We see no reason why you should not accept this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

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- you should not draw on 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 President Energy or its clients.

Lobbying in this context means that you should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to your own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which you are employed, or to whom you are contracted.

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up this appointment or, if earlier, when 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 which 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 an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP