



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: RICHARD DAVIES

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Richard Davies, Special Adviser to the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, between August 2015 and July 2016.

He has sought advice on accepting a part-time, paid appointment as Chief of Staff at the London School of Economics (LSE) Growth Commission. He would be responsible for managing a team of economists working on a report for the Commission.

When considering this application the Committee was mindful that Mr Davies is an economist by profession and that his role in Government lasted for approximately one year.

The Committee took into account that there is very limited overlap between the policy areas that Mr Davies was working on while at HM Treasury and his proposed new role. Furthermore, any relevant, sensitive government information that he had access to in his capacity as Special Adviser on the economy will become quickly out-dated.

The Committee noted that the Treasury will be invited to comment on the Growth Commission's work and LSE may invite certain members of the Treasury staff to provide evidence to the Commission. The role will not involve any lobbying of Government.

The Committee noted that Mr Davies' former department had no concerns about the propriety of the appointment.

The Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that it can see no reason why Mr Davies should not take up this role, subject to the following conditions:

- He should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- For two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the London School of Economics or the University of London.

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. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if he has not already done so, Mr Davies must confirm in writing to your department that he recognises that he continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.)

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant "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 would be grateful if you would let us know whether the Permanent Secretary is content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Davies takes up this role, or if it is announced that he 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Mr Davies complied with the rules.

Once this appointment has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat