

*From the Chair*



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up appointments with Randox Laboratories Ltd having left Government in July 2014.

Randox Laboratories Ltd develops diagnostic solutions for hospitals, clinical, research and molecular labs, food testing, forensic toxicology, veterinary labs and life sciences. It has offices and distribution in over 145 countries and over 1300 employees globally. You have explained to the Committee that you have been offered a paid, part-time (1 day per month) position as consultant advising on long term strategy, and that this may involve discussions with ministers.

The Committee noted that your contact with Randox began when you were Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2007-10) and then as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2010-12) in the context of the debate about the devolution of responsibility for corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Assembly. You supported the campaign to see responsibility devolved. This involved making a range of contacts with businesses across Northern Ireland during which you met and visited Randox.

You subsequently became Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2012-2014), in which capacity you have stated that you did not have any official dealings with Randox, or its parent company.

Since leaving Defra in 2014 you were invited back to Northern Ireland to become involved in the corporation tax campaign and met Randox again.

You are not aware of any relationship, either contractual or non contractual between Randox and your former departments.

**Members:**

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),  
Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger,  
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

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Although Randox will have engagement with government in pursuit of its business, you have informed us that it will not be part of your role with the company to be involved in such engagement.

Taking into account all the circumstances, including the views of your former Departments, the Committee is content to approve this application subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on 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 UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its parent companies, subsidiaries or its clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way – “Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister 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 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 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with Randox Laboratories Ltd as, depending on the circumstances, it may 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 application, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP

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