

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting an offer of part-time employment as a member of the Advisory Board for GovNet Communications, having left Government in September 2012.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account the fact that you did not have any contact with GovNet while in office and the Committee considered your Department's view that your appointment with GovNet does not raise any propriety concerns from their perspective.

The Committee further noted that your role would not include any lobbying of the Government and that you left ministerial office over a year ago.

Taking into account all the circumstances the Committee is content to approve the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister 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 your new employer, its parent company 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 GovNet Communications 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.

Sir Hugh Stevenson

Cheryl Gillan MP