



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: STEPHEN GOODING

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Stephen Gooding, Director General in the Department for Transport (DfT), to take up a new role as Director of the RAC Foundation, an independent charity which promotes, commissions and publishes research into the environmental, economic, mobility and safety issues relating to the use of motor vehicles. Mr Gooding's last day in service is yet to be finalised, but is likely to be around the end of April, and he proposes to take up the new role in May 2015.

When considering the application, the Committee took into account that Mr Gooding has had prior dealings with the RAC Foundation, as they are an organisation DfT routinely consults about research, and who are occasionally used as a sounding board, in the same way as academics researching transport issues. As such, his new role as Director of the Foundation would be likely to involve contact with DfT along these lines. The Committee noted that there is no financial relationship between the Foundation and DfT; the department has never commissioned work from them and the Foundation has an endowment it relies on for funding.

The Committee further noted that Mr Gooding has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about competitors of the RAC Foundation, has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy that could affect them, and has not had any involvement in regulatory work or the award of grants that could affect them.

The Committee took into account that DfT had no concerns with this application, particularly given the nature and timing of the appointment.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved, subject to the conditions that:

- Mr Gooding should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant; and
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, Mr Gooding should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer on its clients.

However, having due regard for the lobbying ban does not prevent communications with Government on matters that are an integral part of the normal course of business of the RAC Foundation.

I should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Gooding takes up the employment with the RAC Foundation, 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he complied with the rules.

I should be grateful if you would ask that Mr Gooding informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with the RAC Foundation as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Millington
Committee Secretariat