



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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23 May 2016

HR Director, HMRC

Dear Sir or Madam,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LIN HOMER DBC

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Dame Lin Homer, former Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). She proposes to take up a part-time role as a member of the University of Birmingham Council.

In considering the application, the Committee took into account that this is an unpaid position. It was also mindful that Dame Lin's relationship with the university is longstanding and predates her move to the civil service. She had regular and frequent official contact with the University while she was CEO of Birmingham City Council. Since she left that role in 2005 she has attended events at the University as a guest once or twice a year. In 2013 she was made an honorary doctor. She was asked to join the Council based on her interest in education and her links to the city.

Dame Lin has informed the Committee that the appointment is not likely to include any contact or dealings with her former department or government more generally.

Dame Lin has declared that she had no contractual dealings with her prospective employer over her last two years of service and that she had no access to commercially sensitive information about any of its competitors. As Chief Executive of HMRC Dame Lin has been involved in the development and administration of departmental tax policy. This impacts on all organisations of this nature and her appointment would not therefore afford the University an unfair advantage.

The Committee considered that the standard three-month waiting period between leaving paid Civil Service employment and taking up an outside appointment that usually applies for Permanent Secretaries, should apply in this case.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Dame Lin should not accept this position, subject to the following conditions:

- She should not take up this appointment until 29 June 2016;
- She should not draw on any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- For two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the University of Birmingham.

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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "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 should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Dame Lin takes up this position, or if it is announced that she 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 she had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Lin informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

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.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat