



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a new appointment as Professor of Practice in Public Service Leadership at Cardiff University.

The Committee noted that this role may involve some contact with the Welsh Government, but that you will not be involved in carrying out any lobbying on behalf of the university.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that you had some dealings with Cardiff University while a Minister, particularly during your time as Minister for Education and Skills from 2011 until 2013. The Committee noted that you were involved in decisions regarding the establishment of Y Lab and commissioning research through the Public Policy Institute for Wales. However, you left your role as Minister for Education and Skills in 2013 and since then have both served as a backbench Assembly Member and as Minister for Public Services; the Welsh Government has confirmed that you were not involved in any decisions during that time that should preclude you from taking up this appointment.

The Committee noted that, while in post, you did not have access to information that could give Cardiff University an unfair advantage, and that the Welsh Government saw no reason why you should not be able to take up this role. They also took into account that you were offered this role after applying for an advertised post.

Taking into account all the circumstances the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this role, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations to which this advice refers) 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 Welsh Government on behalf of Cardiff University, its students, staff or alumni. Nor should you make use, directly or indirectly, of your

contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business or funding on behalf of Cardiff University.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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 or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "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 would inform us as soon as you take up this 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 this role 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.

The Baroness Browning

Leighton Andrews