



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: LORD (NICHOLAS) MACPHERSON GCB

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Lord Macpherson, former Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury. He would like to take up a new role as non-executive director of British Land plc.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that the role would be a paid, part-time position, involving 12-18 days' work per year. It is not likely to include any contact or dealings with either the Treasury or with Government more widely.

The Committee took into account that Lord Macpherson had no contact with the company while in post. Other than in relation to generic tax policy decisions, he had no direct involvement in policy making that could impact on the company.

The Committee also took into account that HM Treasury had no concerns about the appointment and that eight months have now passed since Lord Macpherson's last day in Crown service.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- He should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- For two years from his last day in service, Lord Macpherson should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of British Land plc, or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of British Land plc.

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. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

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 would be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Lord Macpherson takes up this position, 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 had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Lord Macpherson informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him 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 sincerely

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat