



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 the Scottish American Investment Trust.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that the role will involve around six days' work per year and will not include any contact with HMT or Government more generally.

The Committee took into account that Lord Macpherson had no dealings with the Trust while in post. Neither did he have any contact with Baillie Gifford, the asset management firm that manages the Trust. HM Treasury has confirmed that, other than in relation to general tax policy, which affects all companies, he has had no direct involvement in policy making that could affect the Trust.

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

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Lord Macpherson should not take up this position, 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 Scottish American Investment Trust or its parent company, Scottish American Investment Company 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 Scottish American Investment Trust or its parent company.

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