



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/08, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

22 February 2016

Dear Sir Peter,

The Committee has considered your request to accept a new commission with the Centre for Public Impact, a not-for-profit foundation of the Boston Consulting Group. The Committee noted that the work will involve developing and delivering an expert seminar on public services reform.

The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms agreed about your consultancy – which was that it would provide professional services in devolution, service integration, leadership and workforce development to governments, regional and local authorities, and voluntary organisations – and subject to the conditions previously applied.

The conditions that apply to your consultancy are:

- for two years from your last day of service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the Scottish Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise;
- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- for 12 months from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the Scottish Government; and
- for two years from your last day of service, before accepting any new commission you should make a case directly to the Committee to confirm that each individual commission you wish to undertake would be permissible under the approved terms of the consultancy, including any from Deloitte or the Boston Consulting Group. (If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be,

outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application).

In addition in this case, given your previous senior roles in the UK Government and the level of your continuing interaction with the UK Government while at the Scottish Government, the Committee considers you should not front-up or take part in the initial stage of any negotiations or tendering process with the UK Government with a view to influencing a government decision with regard to the design or award of a contract.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant “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 let me know when you take up this piece of work, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report. This letter may also be published (with relevant redactions of personal information).

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Millington
Committee Secretariat