

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice on a potential role as an Advisory Board member with Anvest Partners, a real estate investment company, and about establishing an independent consultancy.

The Committee noted that Anvest Partners is a new entity, and your role would be part time and involve providing advice to the executives on strategy, investors and investments.

In relation to your independent consultancy, the Committee noted that your intention is to provide advice, especially to non-UK Governments and administrations, on various matters but particularly focused on efficiency and administrative savings. They also noted your assurance that you would seek advice on specific assignments as they arise.

The Committee took into account the views of your former departments - FCO, BIS and Cabinet Office - none of which raised any concerns about your proposed appointment or your consultancy.

Taking into account all the factors, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the appointment with Anvest Partners, and establish your independent consultancy, 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 from your time in ministerial office;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Anvest Partners, or on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise;
- 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

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terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the Cabinet Office, FCO or BIS; 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. (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).

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 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 would inform us as soon as you take up this appointment, or undertake any work as a consultant, 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.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

The Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham