



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: STEPHEN LOTINGA

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Stephen Lotinga, the former Director of Communications in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. He is seeking to accept an appointment with the Publishers Association.

When considering this application, the Committee took into consideration that the Publishers Association is the leading representative voice for books, journal, audio and electronic publishers in the UK and the role would involve becoming the organisation's Chief Executive. The Committee noted that Mr Lotinga had no official dealings with the Publishers Association, and no involvement in policy that has or could have affected its work. His former department have no concerns regarding the application.

The Committee noted that this appointment is likely to include some contact with his former department or government more generally, as part of the role may include representing the Publishers Association at events attended by political audiences in the UK and the EU.

The Committee further noted that Mr Lotinga was a special adviser for a relatively short period of time (less than a year) and is seeking to return to the profession (public affairs) that he worked in previously.

The Committee's advice is that it sees no reason why Mr Lotinga should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- Mr Lotinga should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown Service;

- for two years from his last day in Crown Service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on any matter with which he was directly involved while in government (this is not intended to prevent communications with Government that are part of the normal course of business for the Publishers Association); and
- Mr Lotinga should avoid direct commercial contact with the Cabinet Office.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Crown Servant has had access as a consequence of his or her 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 "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".

As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if Mr Lotinga has not already done so, he must confirm in writing to the Department that he recognises that he continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act) which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.

I would be grateful if you would let us know whether you are content to approve the application in line with the Committee's recommendations, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Lotinga takes up this appointment, 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. This could lead to a false assumption about whether Mr Lotinga complied with the Business Appointments Rules.

Alex Young
Caseworker