

Addendum to the 2014-2015 ACOBA Annual Report

This addendum contains details of appointments which were considered by the Committee within the reporting year, but where we were not informed that the appointment had been taken up until after publication of the 2014-2015 annual report. The summaries and advice have already been published on the ACOBA website.

The Committee's advice to former Ministers

Mark Simmonds

Mark Simmonds left his role as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in August 2014.

Senior Strategic Adviser, International Hospitals Group

Mr Simmonds sought advice on accepting a role as Senior Strategic Adviser to the International Hospitals Group, an international healthcare services company, involved in the construction of hospitals around the world and the provision of healthcare.

The Committee noted that Mr Simmonds did have some contact with IHG while in ministerial office, as he met them in order to gain a greater understanding of the skills that organisation has in delivering healthcare abroad. However, he was not involved in policy development, the award of grants, or any regulatory work that could have affected the organisation. Nor did he have official dealings with any competitors of his prospective employer.

The Committee advised Mr Simmonds that it saw no reason why he should not accept this appointment subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on any privileged information available to him from his time in Government; and
- for two years from his last day in ministerial office he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of IHG, its parent company or its clients.

The Committee wrote its [advice letter](#) to Mr Simmonds in March 2015 and he took up the role in April 2015.

Rt Hon Lord Willetts

Lord Willetts left his role as Minister for Universities and Science in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in July 2014.

Board Member, Biotech Industry Association (BIA)

Lord Willetts sought the Committee's advice on an appointment as a board member of the Biotech Industry Association.

When considering this application the Committee took into account that Lord Willetts had some contact with BIA while in office, due to his former responsibilities as a minister. They also took into account that there is an ongoing non-contractual relationship between BIA and BIS on life sciences policy. They also noted that, although BIA lobbies Government, Lord Willetts has made it clear that he will not be taking part in this.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee was content to approve the appointment subject to the following conditions:

- that he should not draw on any privileged information available to him as a Minister; and
- for two years from his last day in ministerial office, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, their parent company or clients.

The Committee wrote its [advice letter](#) to Lord Willetts in March 2015 and he took up the role in May 2015.

Executive Chairman, Resolution Foundation

Lord Willetts sought advice on accepting a role as Executive Chairman of the Resolution Foundation.

The Committee took into account that Lord Willetts had previously sat on the Resolution Foundation's advisory board, but that he did not have any official dealings with them in his capacity as a BIS Minister.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee was content to approve the appointment subject to the following conditions:

- that he should not draw on any privileged information available to him as a Minister; and
- for two years from his last day in ministerial office, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, their parent company or clients.

The Committee wrote its [advice letter](#) to Lord Willetts in March 2015 and he took up the new role in September 2015.

Chair, British Science Association

Lord Willetts sought the Committee's advice on taking up a role as Chair of the British Science Association (BSA).

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that his former department, BIS, provides funding to BSA, and that Lord Willetts had official dealings with them while in office. However, they also took into account the views of his former department about this appointment, and the fact that Lord Willetts had made it clear to BSA that he will not be conducting any lobbying of the Government on their behalf.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee was content to approve the appointment subject to the following conditions:

- that he should not draw on any privileged information available to him as a Minister; and
- for two years from his last day in ministerial office, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, their parent company or clients.

The Committee wrote its [advice letter](#) to Lord Willetts in March 2015 and he took up the new role in September 2015.

The Committee's advice to former Crown servants

Sir David Reddaway

Sir David left his role as Ambassador to Turkey in February 2014.

Governing Board, School of Oriental and African Studies

Sir David sought advice to accept a part-time unpaid appointment as a Member of the Governing Board for the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University.

In their consideration of this application, the Committee noted that Sir David did not have any direct contractual dealings with his the SOAS during his last two years of service.

The Foreign Secretary accepted the Committee's recommendation that Sir David's application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- Sir David should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Government; and
- For two years from his last day in service, Sir David should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer, its parent company or its clients.

The [letter](#) containing the final advice was sent in March 2015 and he took up the new role in September 2015.