



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up appointments with [REDACTED] Dragon Harvest Group and Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd, having left Government in July 2014.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dragon Harvest Group

When considering this application, the Committee took into account the fact that Dragon Harvest Group is an investment platform for Asian capital seeking European opportunities for institutional and corporate investors. This is a new company, recently formed, and currently being registered in Hong Kong. You stated that you have an offer of part-time paid employment for 2 days per month. You will join as a main board non-executive Director, helping inform and monitor the overall group investment strategy and performance with a focus on investment in European infrastructure on behalf of Chinese investors. You stated that there will be no lobbying of HM Government or any other government.

The Committee noted that you stated that during your last 2 years in office you did not have any official dealings with your prospective employer or its parent company and nor are you aware of any relationship, either contractual or non-contractual between your prospective employer and your former department. You stated that during your last 2 years of office you did not have any official dealings with competitors of your prospective employer or its parent company.

Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd

When considering this application, the Committee took into account the fact that you wish to take up a part-time paid appointment with Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd; an organisation that sells solar panel technology to customers around the UK. You will join the Board of the organisation as a NED and your role will involve advising on commercial strategy in the UK and developing new opportunities in Africa. You will be working in this role for 2 days per month. You stated that your role as a NED will preclude lobbying the UK Government.

The Committee noted that you had official dealings with Lightsource during your last two years in office. This was in the form of meetings with the organisation, and other companies and members of the Solar Trade Association, to hear about their views on reforms and the market for renewable energy. You further stated that you had official dealings with competitors of your prospective employer in the solar sector, via attendance at conferences, roundtables and engagement with their trade bodies. You confirmed that you were not involved in the provision of grants or any specific regulatory work with Lightsource while in office and you did not have access to commercially sensitive information about competitors of Lightsource (or its parent company).

The Committee also considered the views of your former Departments and the Prime Minister's Office (given your role as the Prime Minister's Envoy on Climate Change).

Taking into account all the circumstances the Committee is content to approve the appointments, subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government (including in your capacity as the Prime Minister's Envoy on Climate Change) and
- for two years from your last day in Ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employers its parent companies or its clients.

The Committee understands that it is your intention to stand down from your role as the Prime Minister's Envoy on Climate Change and that you will not take up the appointments with Dragon Harvest Group or Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd until you have stood down.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way – "Lobbying in this context 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 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 the appointments, or if it is announced that you will do so, 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your roles with [REDACTED] Dragon Harvest Group or Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointments have been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

Greg Barker MP

