

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part-time paid appointment as an adviser to Markit Limited.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that you had some dealings with Markit when you spoke at their conference and you had also met some of their competitors in your capacity as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The Committee noted that you are not aware of any policy decisions which you took that would have been to the exclusive benefit of Markit and that you have not had access to any commercially sensitive information about their activities. Furthermore you are not aware of any relationship between your former department and your prospective employer. The Committee also noted the fact it is now over a year since you left ministerial office.

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

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

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".

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I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointment, 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 role with Markit Limited, as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointment has 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.

Sir Hugh Stevenson

Rt Hon Mark Hoban MP

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Page 2 of 2