



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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### BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DR VANESSA LAWRENCE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Dr Vanessa Lawrence, the former Head of Ordnance Survey. She has applied to set up as an independent consultant, and accept commissions with the National Geospatial Information Committee in Saudi Arabia [REDACTED]. Dr Lawrence was Director General and CEO of Ordnance Survey, the Head and Accounting Officer of the organisation, from 2000 until April 2014. Between April 2014 and the end of the year she was Secretary General of Ordnance Survey, and Head of Ordnance Survey International. Her last day in the civil service was 31 December 2014.

When considering the application, the Committee took into account that Dr Lawrence did not have any contractual dealings with either of her potential clients. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They also noted that she had met His Excellency Morayyea Hassan Al Shahrani, the President of the General Commission of Survey and Chairman of the National Committee of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Saudi Arabia, as he has previously attended events held by Ordnance Survey. Dr Lawrence, along with others, was also invited by him to visit Saudi Arabia and last did so in 2011. However, the Committee did not believe that this contact gave rise to concerns.

The Committee noted that Dr Lawrence has not had access to any commercially sensitive information about competitors of her future clients, has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy that could affect them, and has not had any involvement in regulatory work or the award of grants that could affect them.

The Committee took into account that Ordnance Survey and BIS, as the sponsoring department, had no concerns with this application.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved, subject to the conditions that:

- for two years from her last day of service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of her clients or those she advises;

- she should not draw on privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- for 12 months from her last day of service she should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of Ordnance Survey or any subsidiary of Ordnance Survey; and
- for two years from her last day of service, before accepting any new commission she should make a case directly to the Committee to confirm that each individual commission she wishes 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 she will be expected to submit a fresh application).

I should be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Dr Lawrence starts her new work, or if it is announced that she 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, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she complied with the rules.

I should be grateful if you would ask that Dr Lawrence informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change her role as an independent consultant as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Millington  
Committee Secretariat