



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/08, Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

17 March 2015

Joanna Rodrigues
HR Director
Cabinet Office

Dear Ms Rodrigues

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: CHRISTOPHER LAST

The Committee has considered an application from Christopher Last, Head of Civil Service Human Resources, based at the Cabinet Office. He is seeking permission to accept a full time paid appointment as the Group HR Director with Kier Group. Mr Last has resigned from the Cabinet Office and his last day of service will be 31 May 2015. He hopes to take up the appointment with Kier Group on 1 June 2015.

The Committee noted that the appointment will not include dealings with your Department or the Government. The Committee took into account that Mr Last has not had contractual or official dealings, nor has he been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings, with Kier Group during his last two years of service.

The Committee noted that Mr Last has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors of his prospective employer; nor has he had access to policy or any other departmental information that would give Kier Group an advantage. Furthermore, he has not been involved in the development or administration of any policy or decisions (including the award of grants) that could affect his proposed employer.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that Mr Last's application be approved subject to the following conditions;

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

The Business Appointment rules define lobbying in the following way:

‘Lobbying in this context 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 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 could send us a copy of your letter to Mr Last informing him of the outcome of his application. Please also ensure that we are told when Mr Last takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the Rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website (<http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>) including, with your agreement, a copy of your letter.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Mr Last informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with Kier Group because, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely,

Isabel Fraser
Committee Secretariat