



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Business Appointments Application: Keith Bristow

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Keith Bristow, the Director General of the National Crime Agency (NCA). He is seeking permission to set up an independent consultancy and to take up commissions under this consultancy with INTERPOL and Arcanum Global. Mr Bristow has been Director General to the NCA since 1st December 2011. His last day in post will be 3rd January 2016.

Mr Bristow's independent consultancy will offer a range of advisory and consultancy services. The areas it would cover include: leadership and management development; risk and reputation management; governance and standards; and law enforcement, security and policing.

The commissions with INTERPOL and Arcanum Global would see Mr Bristow acting as a Senior Adviser. At INTERPOL he shall initially be undertaking a review of the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World. At Arcanum he shall be advising the chairman on issues of law enforcement, security and policing.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that Mr Bristow did not have any contractual dealings with Arcanum Global, or its competitors, and was not responsible for those who did in his last two years of service. They also considered the relationship between the NCA and INTERPOL and were reassured by the views of the NCA and Home Office who had no concerns with him taking up work with INTERPOL or Arcanum Global.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that there is no reason why Mr Bristow should not set up this consultancy, and take up commissions with Arcanum Global and INTERPOL, subject to the following conditions:

- He should not draw on any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service;
- For two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of his clients or those he advises. This is not meant to restrict the standard contact that may occur between NCA and INTERPOL officials.

- For 12 months from his last day of service he 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 the NCA; and
- Once he has received approval to set up as an independent consultant, he must seek confirmation from the **Committee directly** that each subsequent individual commission is permissible under the terms of his consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy he will be expected to submit a fresh application.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

It might also be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] 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 ensure that we are told when he takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We are otherwise unable to deal with any enquiries, as we do not release information about appointments that have not been announced or taken up and this could lead to the false assumption that he did not comply with the rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website including a copy of this letter, and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Mr Bristow informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his consultancy or these commissions as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely

Alex Newton
Committee Secretariat