



## **OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

7 November 2016

### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: BARONESS KATE FALL**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Baroness Fall, former Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister. She has sought advice on accepting a part-time, paid role as a senior advisor at Brunswick Group LLP, a global corporate communications firm.

Baroness Fall's role would be to provide strategic advice to the Chairman and to assist him with recruitment to the company. She does not normally expect to have dealings with clients.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account Baroness Fall's assurance that her role would not involve lobbying; and neither will she have contact or dealings with Government more generally. It also noted that she had no official contact with Brunswick while she was in office, no official dealings with its competitors or the sector in which they operate and no access to any commercially sensitive information about any of its competitors.

The Committee also noted that Baroness Fall's former department had no propriety concerns about this appointment.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- That she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- For two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Brunswick Group LLP or its clients.

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. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on

the understanding that, if she has not already done so, Baroness Fall must confirm in writing to her department that she recognises that she continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown).

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying 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 [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 would let us know whether the Permanent Secretary is content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Baroness Fall takes up this role, 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Baroness Fall complied with the rules.

Once this appointment has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat