



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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MOD

Business Appointments

Sent via e-mail

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: GENERAL SIR PETER WALL

The Committee has considered an application from Sir Peter Wall, the former Chief of the General Staff. He is seeking permission to accept a part time paid appointment at the General Dynamics Corporation. Sir Peter's last day of Crown service was 7 January 2015.

The Committee took into account that MOD has a large number of live and closed contracts with General Dynamics, worth about £5.8 billion including a significant contract for Scout specialist vehicles, and that Sir Peter had official dealings with General Dynamics and its competitors during his last two years of service.

Due to these facts, the Committee considered whether it should advise that the appointment was unsuitable. However, in considering Sir Peter's application they took into account the following factors. They recognised that the Chief of Materiel (Land) was responsible for final decision-making in relation to these contracts, and that the procurement process was managed by Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) at the MOD, for which Sir Peter had no operational responsibility. They also recognised that the contracts with General Dynamics both pre and post-dated Sir Peter's time as Head of the Army, and that Sir Peter's role at General Dynamics would be a non-executive one. The Committee further noted Sir Peter's confirmation that the appointment would not include dealings with General Dynamics' military customers, including DE&S and/or the UK Armed Services.

Members:

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However, the Committee felt that, given the extent of the contractual relationship between General Dynamics and the MOD, and Sir Peter's senior position, a waiting period was necessary in this case.

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

- A waiting period of 18 months from his last day in Crown service;
- That he should not draw on [disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisation to which this advice refers] any privileged information available to him from his time in Government;
- For two years from his last day in Crown service he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government, including the MOD and the Armed Forces, either formally or informally on behalf of General Dynamics Corporation, its subsidiaries or clients;
- For two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not provide advice on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD; and
- He should not have any involvement with matters relating to the Scout contract.

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.

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 informed as soon as Sir Peter takes up this role, or if it is announced that he 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 he had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Sir Peter informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change this role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

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 application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Committee Secretariat

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