

*From the Chair*



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting a paid appointment as a Professor of Scottish Culture and Governance in the University of Glasgow. You left Government on 20 November 2014.

When considering your application the Committee noted that you had official dealings with the University in your last two years in office. Your decisions as Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning influenced all higher education institutions in Scotland, although you did not decide individual funding or grants.

Our advice is that we see no reason why you should not accept this appointment forthwith subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on any privileged information available to you from your time in the Scottish Government.
- For two years from your last day in office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying Scottish Government Ministers or Crown servants, including Special Advisers, on behalf of your new employer. The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former minister 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 would inform us as soon as you take up this appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Scottish Ministerial Code.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

Baroness Browning

Michael Russell MSP

**Members:**

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan, Baroness Browning (Chair), Lord German, Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, Sir Hugh Stevenson, Field Marshall the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE