



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/7 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

Ursula Brennan
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice

9 June 2015

Dear Ms Brennan,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: PETER HANDCOCK

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Peter Handcock, the former Chief Executive of HMCTS, who is seeking permission to accept an offer of a part-time, unpaid appointment with The Personal Support Unit (PSU). Mr Handcock's last day of Crown service was 21 December 2014.

When considering the application, the Committee noted that Mr Handcock did not have any contractual dealings and was not responsible for people who had contractual dealings with PSU during his last two years of service. Furthermore, he did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors nor was he involved in the development or administration of any departmental policy or decisions that could have affected PSU.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the application be approved subject to the condition that for two years from his last day of service, Mr Handcock should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown Servant and he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of PSU or its clients. The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former civil 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 ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Handcock takes up the appointment, 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.

Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with The Personal Support Unit 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.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Edwards-Playne
COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT