

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/8 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

November 2015

The Committee has considered your request to take up appointments with the Horse Trust and Youd Andrews. You left your ministerial position in May 2015.

Horse Trust

The Horse Trust is a charity that cares for retired horses and those who may have suffered from cruelty or neglect. You would act as a Trustee for the Charity.

The Committee noted that you had some dealings with this organisation while you were a Minister in Defra. However, they also took into account that it is an unpaid role with a time commitment of around six days a year and that it would not require you to lobby government.

Youd Andrews

Youd Andrews is a sales consultancy based around a network of European senior executives, who share their business and cultural experiences with clients. You would join this network whereupon you would be asked to join simulated boards of directors, in order to coach management of companies. This will be a paid role with a time commitment of up to six days a month. The Committee noted that you had no dealings with the organisation while in ministerial office, and you have informed the Committee that your role will not involve lobbying government.

Taking into account all of the circumstances, and having sought the opinion of your former department, which did not have any concerns regarding the propriety of either of these appointments, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take them up, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations or persons to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you in your time as a Minister;

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- For two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Horse Trust, Youd Andrews, their partners or clients.

By ‘privileged information’ we mean official information to which a Minister 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.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "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 inform us as soon as you take up either of these appointments, or if 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 Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with these organisations as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointments have 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.

Baroness Browning

Lord de Mauley

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