



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: MS NATALIE CEENEY CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Natalie Ceeney, former CEO of HM Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS), part of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who proposes to establish an independent consultancy.

Ms Ceeney was CEO of HMCTS between 5 January 2015 and 31 May 2016, responsible for leading the day-to-day management and transformation of the agency. She joined HMCTS from HSBC where she worked as head of customer standards between February 2014 and January 2015. She previously worked as a civil servant between 2005 and 2010 as Chief Executive of The National Archives.

Her consultancy will specialise in business transformation, regulatory compliance in financial services and alternative dispute resolution. She plans to target the financial services, retail and private healthcare sectors.

Ms Ceeney has confirmed that her consultancy will not offer any government lobbying services, nor will it offer sales strategies into government. She has undertaken not to engage in any activity involving advising on justice policy as it relates to the courts. She has also provided an assurance that she will not broker any introductions between anyone outside of government and any government policy makers or ministers.

When considering this application the Committee took into account that the Permanent Secretary for the MoJ expressed no concerns in principle about Ms Ceeney establishing an independent consultancy.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Ms Ceeney should not establish an independent consultancy, subject to the following conditions:

- That she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisations 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 Crown service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of her clients or those she advises or make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business;
- For 12 months from her last day of service she should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of HM Courts and Tribunal Service or the Ministry of Justice; and
- For two years from her last day in Crown service, she should not provide advice on matters on which she was directly involved while in Crown service or with regard to justice policy as it relates to the courts.

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 would ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Ceeney starts taking on commissions under her consultancy, 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 which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the rules.

Once the consultancy has been publicly announced or commenced, 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

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat