



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: SIR MARTIN DONNELLY KCB CMG

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Martin Donnelly, former Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Trade (DIT), to take up a role as a Senior Adviser at Teneo Holdings International (Teneo), part of Teneo Holdings.

Sir Martin was the Permanent Secretary at DIT from July 2016 to March 2017 and previous to this, was Permanent Secretary at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which was subsumed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), from October 2010 to August 2016. His last day in the Civil Service was 7 April 2017.

Appointment details

Sir Martin stated that his role as a Senior Adviser will be paid and part-time. He will be supporting the organisation in providing consulting services, including risk management, to firms (with an international focus) at Chief Executive level.

Sir Martin advised that he does not expect to have contact with the UK Government within this role; that he had no previous official dealings with Teneo whilst he was in office; and that he has no commercially sensitive information about the organisation. He explained to the Committee that he had a range of high level contacts with UK based businesses whilst in office, although not contract-related. He said this included high-level contact with the major accountancy and consultancy firms and noted he did not engage with international consultancies, nor with their commercial activities in the UK.

BEIS raised no concerns about Sir Martin's role and recommended that the appointment be made subject to a ban on the use of privileged information and a lobbying ban. Cabinet Office also raised no concerns about this appointment and confirmed that Sir Martin has no commercially sensitive information which could unfairly advantage Teneo.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee noted Sir Martin had no contact with Teneo whilst he was in office. He explained that he had some contact with high level contacts with UK based businesses whilst in office, but that they

were not contract related. Further, his dealings with accountancy and consultancy firms did not include engaging with international consultancies, or with their commercial activities in the UK. As such, the Committee considered here is no evidence to suggest the role could reasonably be perceived as a reward.

Sir Martin notes that his role will be internationally focussed and he does not expect to have contact with the UK Government. In addition, Sir Martin has explicitly stated that he will not lobby Government on behalf of Teneo (and has advised Teneo that he will be precluded from doing so). The Department has also confirmed that Sir Martin has no commercially sensitive information about Teneo or its competitors. As such, the risk that Teneo could potentially gain an unfair advantage as a result of Sir Martin's role is considered low. However, the Committee recognises Sir Martin has spent a number of years in senior positions within Government and has made it clear in the conditions imposed that any use of the contacts he has in Government, to the advantage of Teneo, would be inappropriate.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- for two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Teneo Holdings International, its parent company, partners or clients. Nor should he make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of Teneo Holdings International, its parent company, partners or clients.

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. 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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "*should not engage in communication with Government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a Government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office.*"

I should be grateful if you would let us know whether the Permanent Secretary is content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir Martin 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Sir Martin complied with the rules.

Once this appointment has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Parkington
Committee Secretariat
