



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LIN HOMER

The Committee was asked to consider an application from Dame Lin Homer, former Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). She proposed taking up a paid, part-time role as a Public Interest Member on the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants to Scotland (ICAS).

The Committee noted that the role of Public Interest Members is to uphold the integrity, standing and standards of the chartered accountancy profession. Dame Lin would attend all Council meetings and produce an annual report with other Public Interest Members.

In considering this application the Committee took into account that ICAS accredits chartered accountants who represent taxpayers so there is regular interaction between ICAS and HMRC. ICAS is one of a number of representative bodies, all of whom Dame Lin met on an occasional basis as CEO of HMRC. The Committee is aware that Dame Lin was responsible for staff in the Commercial Directorate who let training contracts to ICAS but neither she nor the CEO Office had any direct involvement in these contracts.

The Committee felt that it was an important consideration in this case that eight months had passed since Dame Lin had left Crown service. It also placed weight on Dame Lin's assurance that she would not lobby or interact with HMRC on behalf of the Institute.

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

- She should not draw on any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- For two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of ICAS or its members, or make use, directly or

indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of ICAS or its members.

- For two years from her last day of service, she should not have any contact with HMRC on behalf of ICAS, or provide advice to ICAS on any matter, or the terms of any bid or contract, relating directly to the work of HMRC.

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 Dame Lin takes up this position, 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 that 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.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Lin informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her 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

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat