



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: KATHERINE (KATIE) PERRIOR**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Katie Perrior, former Director of Communications to the Prime Minister. She has sought advice on accepting an appointment as Chair of iNHouse Communications, a communications agency that she co-owned for ten years before she entered Government.

Ms Perrior advised the Committee that she had been offered a paid, part-time appointment (4 days per month) by her previous business partner, after she had resigned from Government.

She does not wish to return to her previous position of co-owner and client lead, but explained in her application that she has been offered a role to help streamline the business and improve its performance. Other than at drinks events, she will not meet or work with clients face-to-face.

When considering the application the Committee took into account that Ms Perrior is returning the company that she co-owned before becoming a special adviser. It also took into account advice from the Cabinet Office, which confirmed that INHouse Communications had no government contracts during Ms Perrior's employment as a special adviser and the department has no concerns about the application, subject to the conditions set out below.

The Committee noted that Ms Perrior has said that the position is not likely to include contact or dealings with Government. It wishes to draw her attention to the condition set out below precluding lobbying and both direct and indirect use of Government contacts to influence policy or secure business on behalf of INHouse Communications and its clients.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- That she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation 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 service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of INHouse Communication or its subsidiaries or

clients, nor should she make use, directly or indirectly, of her Government and/or Crown service contacts to influence policy or secure business on their behalf.

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. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if she has not already done so, Ms Perrior must confirm in writing to her department that she recognises that she continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by her duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.)

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 Ms Perrior takes up this role, 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Ms Perrior 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

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat