



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

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Dear Mr Lovegrove,

**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: TONY DOUGLAS**

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules on behalf of Tony Douglas, former Chief Executive of Defence Equipment and Support at the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in relation to his appointment to the role of Chief Executive of Etihad Aviation Group (Etihad).

You explained that the MOD announced Mr Douglas' appointment last October without first seeking the Committee's advice. The Committee has expressed its concern that the Business Appointment Rules were not followed in this case and that the appointment will start less than three months after Mr Douglas leaves Crown Service. You have apologised to the Committee for this unfortunate oversight and have assured the Committee of your determination that the correct process is followed in all cases.

The Business Appointment Rules for former Crown servants specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. The Committee needs to be able to fully and freely consider an application before offering its advice - it is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been announced and/or taken up. The Committee is therefore unwilling to give retrospective advice for this appointment.

The Committee will, however, formally record that:

- The MOD Business Appointments Panel (the Panel) has confirmed that Etihad has no commercial relationship with the MOD.
- Mr Douglas has said that his role at Etihad will not involve contact with the UK Government.
- The failure to seek prior advice aside, the Panel is satisfied that there are no actual or perceived propriety concerns with this appointment.
- The Panel has assessed that the knowledge and networks to which Mr Douglas had access by virtue of his MOD role will not present any advantage to Etihad over the company's competitors.

The Committee notes that the Business Appointments Panel Chair will write to Mr Douglas and the Chair of Etihad, asking Mr Douglas to observe restrictions on drawing on privileged

information available to him from his time in Crown service; lobbying; making use, directly or indirectly of his contacts in Government to influence policy or secure business or funding on behalf of his new employer and advising on the terms or with regard to the subject matter of bids or contracts relating directly to the work of the MOD or its trading funds.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat