



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Ms Wallington,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: LT GEN PHILIP JONES

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Lt Gen Philip Jones, former Chief of Staff, NATO who proposes to take up an appointment with PA Consulting as an advisor.

Lt Gen Jones was Chief of Staff, NATO from October 2013 to December 2015. Between September 2011 and September 2013 he was Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command, MOD. His last day in Crown service was 5 May 2016.

Lt Gen Jones will focus primarily on business in the USA, specifically on defence and security matters and advising on current military and security thinking. The work he will be engaged in is likely to include organisational advice, process efficiency, systems improvement, training and education. The role will not require him to lobby Ministers but he has said that he will come into contact with former colleagues working in the UK Joint Forces Command and/ or working in the transatlantic relationship.

Lt Gen Jones has emphasised that this is a generalist consultant/ advisory role in the national and international security field and he will not be seeking contracts or business directly from the UK MOD. He has never worked in procurement or acquisition and has no intention of doing so. He has said that PA Consulting's interest in him is primarily his US experience.

When considering this application the Committee took into account that the MOD panel expressed no concerns about Lt Gen Jones taking up a position with PA Consulting, subject to a 2-year lobbying ban.

The Secretary of State for Defence accepted the Committee's advice that there was no reason why Lt Gen Jones should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- For 12 months from his last day of service he should not provide advice to PA Consulting or its clients on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the Ministry of Defence;
- He should not draw on 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 PA Consulting, its subsidiaries or clients. Given the nature of his role with PA Consulting, the Committee would emphasise that this includes lobbying of former colleagues working in the UK Joint Forces Command and/ or working in the transatlantic relationship.

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 could ensure that we are informed as soon as Lt Gen Jones takes up this position, 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 which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Lt Gen Jones informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him 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