



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>

December 2017

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: MS ANN BEASLEY

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Ms Ann Beasley, former Director General (Chief Finance and Commercial Officer) at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), to take up a role with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) as an Independent Financial Adviser.

Appointment details

Ms Beasley stated that her role will be paid and part-time. She will become an Independent Financial Adviser and her role will be to sit on the Committee to provide specific capability to allow the Audit Committee to fulfil its duties, through:

- the provision of technical advice and guidance on accounting and finance issues;
- the review and challenge of the Annual Accounts before signature by the Chief Executive;
- ensuring the Audit Committee is kept abreast of accounting changes to reporting and compliance requirements;
- playing a pro-active role in the relationship with both internal and external auditors; and
- providing practical advice and guidance to support good governance, assurance and risk management in Acas.

She does not expect to have contact with Government in this appointment.

Ms Beasley confirmed that she had no previous official contact or contractual dealings with her prospective employer or its competitors. She also stated she has no commercially sensitive information about Acas or its competitors.

MOJ confirmed it has no relationship with Acas; that Ms Beasley has no commercially sensitive information; and that she had no access to policy or other departmental information, which would give Acas an unfair advantage. MOJ raised no concerns about this appointment.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee noted that both the Department and Ms Beasley confirmed she had no official dealings with Acas whilst in office. In addition, the Department confirmed it has no relationship with Acas. As such, the Committee considered there is nothing to suggest the role could reasonably be perceived as a reward for her time in office.

The Department confirmed Ms Beasley has no commercially sensitive information about Acas or its competitors, and that she had no access to policy or departmental information. Further, Ms Beasley does not expect to have contact with Government in this role. The Committee also noted that Acas is a non-departmental public body sponsored by a government department. Ms Beasley's previous role, albeit in a different government department, was in finance- therefore, the conditions below make clear that any use contacts gained whilst in office to the advantage of Acas, 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:

- 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; and
- for two years from her last day in Crown service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service or its partners, nor should she make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service or its partners.

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 ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Beasley 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 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 Ms Beasley 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 this 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

Sarah Parkington
Committee Secretariat
