



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 carrying out ad hoc media commentary work with radio, TV and newspapers relating to the General Election.

Ms Perrior is engaging in ad hoc work with radio, TV and newspapers, including media outlets such as ITV, The Times, Sky News, BBC News and Talk Radio, involving articles and commentary. She has said that this is unpredictable work and does not know how much she will be used. There are no contracts or long-term commitments involved.

As Director of Communications at No.10 Ms Perrior had regular contact with these media organisations and others, as she was often their main point of contact. News UK, the parent company of The Times, previously sponsored some events Ms Perrior ran at her communications consultancy firm, prior to her appointment at No.10.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account the views of the Cabinet Office, which has no reservations about this work, subject to the conditions set out below.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that this work 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 the Government on behalf of her clients.

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