

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about joining the Board of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership.

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership is a not-for-profit organisation, created by George Osborne MP, with the bi-partisan support of local government and fellow MPs, to promote economic development in the North of England.

The Committee noted that your role will be unpaid and will involve occasional presence at board meetings and possibly roundtable discussions. It also noted you had responsibility for the Government's Northern Powerhouse project in your previous role as Commercial Secretary to the Treasury.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that you expect only to have contact with the Treasury and Government more broadly at the request of Government. It also took into account that your former Department had no concerns about the appointment.

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

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, or make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government

and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of the Partnership.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers 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 would inform us as soon as you take up your role with the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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 you had complied with the Ministerial Code.

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.

The Baroness Browning

Lord Jim O'Neill