



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LIN HOMER

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Dame Lin Homer, former Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Dame Lin proposes to take up positions on the Boards of the Centre for Ageing Better and the Stefanou Foundation.

Appointment details

Dame Lin would attend four meetings a year of each Board and occasionally carry out other duties such as attending strategy away days. Both positions are unpaid.

She has indicated that the appointments may include contact with Government. The Centre for Ageing Better received funding from the Big Lottery Fund to investigate policy options around ageing better which are of relevance and interest to a number of Government departments. The results and findings will be shared.

Dame Lin explained that the Stefanou Foundation is researching the causes of and interventions into domestic abuse. This is also an area that Government is interested in and, again, the results and findings will be shared.

The Cabinet Secretary has countersigned this application. He does not think that the proposed appointments could be seen as improper and has no reservations about them.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee noted that these appointments are unpaid and that there is no connection between them and Dame Lin's previous role as Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HMRC. Consequently, the Committee concluded that there is no risk of them being perceived as a reward.

The Committee took into account Dame Lin's statement that both organisations are doing work in which Government has an interest and that there is an intention that the findings of their research will be shared with Government. In light of this the Committee considered it appropriate to clarify the lobbying ban to make clear that Dame Lin is not precluded from reporting to Government on the activities of the Centre for Ageing Better or the Stefanou Foundation but should not make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government to influence policy or secure funding.

When considering this application the Committee was also mindful that 16 months had passed since Dame Lin left Government.

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 persons or organisations 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 service, Dame Lin Homer should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Centre for Ageing Better and the Stefanou Foundation. This is not intended to prevent her reporting to Government on the activities of the Centre for Ageing Better or the Stefanou Foundation but it would prevent her from making use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on their behalf.

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 Dame Lin takes up these positions, 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 she had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Lin informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her roles as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Once the appointments have 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