



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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**INDEPENDENT CONSULTANCY – NEW COMMISSION**

Dear Sir Ed,

The Committee has now considered your application to undertake a commission with the Italian company SIT group. This will be a short project advising them on the smart gas-meter market in the UK, in particular to help them understand existing policy with a view to entering the market in this country.

The Committee took into consideration that you had no official dealings with SIT Group whilst in office; that the supply and fitting of smart gas meters is the responsibility of energy suppliers in line with the published Smart Metering Technical Standards as set by Government; and that your former Department has confirmed they are unaware of any relevant sensitive information you would have had access to (such as unannounced policy).

**The Committee agrees that the commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy.**

**The conditions that apply to your independent consultancy are:**

- You should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in Government;
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer, its subsidiaries or its clients;
- You should not involve yourself in work related to Hinkley Point C or any commercial deal in which DECC is currently involved; and
- Once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each subsequent individual commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

In addition, in relation to this commission with SIT Group,

- you should not make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on behalf of SIT Group, its subsidiaries, partners or clients.

As you know, 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 me know when you take up this commission, or if it is announced that you are to do so. Once the commission has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee’s website and include the main details of the commission, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Alex Morrow  
Committee Secretariat