



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/08, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

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Dear Vice Admiral Hudson,

The Committee has considered your request to accept a commission with Burson-Marsteller (BM), a global public relations and communications firm, as a senior military advisor. The Committee noted that your role would be to help to establish a new defence section for BM. You would act as a trusted advisor to board members on the European defence sector, raising awareness on defence and security issues so that BM can provide expertise to clients on such matters within the context of their core outputs.

The work would involve 2 days per month for a period of 6 months, starting in February 2017.

The Committee noted that you left your position as Commander of NATO Maritime Command in October 2015.

The Committee agrees that this commission is permissible within the terms of your consultancy, which centres on the future operational landscape and potential crises as well as highlighting capability shortfalls across Europe. Your consultancy will utilise your strategic understanding of the international community, engage in training roles and will not target individual equipment programmes.

The conditions that apply to your consultancy are:

- A waiting period of six months from your last day in Crown service (now expired);
- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise;

- For 12 months from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD; and
- For two years from your last day of service, before accepting any new commission you should apply to the Committee for approval to confirm that it is acceptable under the Committee's guidelines.

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 "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 let me know when you take up this piece of work, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish this letter and brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat