



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up an appointment with the Legatum Institute, as a Senior Fellow.

The Committee's remit

As you will be aware, it is the Committee's role to advise on any conditions that should apply to appointments or employment under the Government's Business Appointments Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules), which apply to former Ministers for two years after they leave office.

The Rules seek to counter suspicion that:

- a) the decisions and statements of a serving Minister might be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation; or
- b) an employer could make improper use of official information to which a former Minister has had access; or
- c) there may be cause for concern about the appointment in some other particular respect.

When the Committee considers applications it must have in mind that Government has judged that it is in the public interest that former Ministers with experience in Government should be able to move into business or into other areas of public life, and to be able to start a new career or resume a former one. It is equally important that when a former Minister takes up a particular appointment or employment, there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety.

The Legatum Institute

Appointment details

The Legatum Institute is an international think-tank based in London and a registered UK charity.

You stated that your role as a Senior Fellow at the Legatum Institute will be paid and involve working part-time (around one day a week). You will be working on a project to write a book dealing with 'The World Ahead: Geopolitics in a world dominated by India and China'. The Legatum Institute will be supporting the research including: hosting seminars in London, Washington, Beijing and Dehli; and employing research assistants.

You confirmed that you had no official dealings with the Legatum Institute whilst you were in office, though you did meet with other think-tanks to discuss a range of issues.

John Manzoni, Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office raised no concerns about this appointment and is content for you to take up this work.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee concluded there was little risk this role could be seen as a reward related to your time in office given the nature of the role; that you had no official dealings with the organisation whilst in office; and with the Cabinet Office's confirmation that it has no concerns under the Government's Business Appointment Rules.

As you do not expect to have any contact with Government in this role; and there are no clear 'competitors', the Committee considered there was little risk of you affording the Legatum Institute with an unfair advantage, bearing in mind the restrictions below. In addition, the Committee noted the separate rules that are in place around your activities in Parliament.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises this 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 Ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The Legatum Institute.

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 inform us as soon as you take up employment with this organisation, 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 Rules and the Ministerial Code.

Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.

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

The Right Honourable Sir Oliver Letwin MP

