



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

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### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: LORD JONATHAN OATES**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Lord Oates, former Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister under the coalition Government. He proposes to take up employment with Tendo, a communications consultancy set up by David Carroll and Will de Peyer, former, fellow special advisers to the Deputy Prime Minister. Lord Oates will provide ad hoc consultancy support on media communications and policy issues and introduce potential clients with a specific focus on international opportunities.

The Committee noted that this is a paid role, which will involve four days work per month. It will not involve any contact or dealings with government.

The Committee took into account that the Cabinet Office had no reservations about this appointment.

The Committee also took into account that the Committee's advice to Mr Carroll and Mr de Peyer required them for two years from their last day in crown service to approach the Committee to seek approval for each individual commission to be undertaken by Tendo.

The Committee's advice is that there is no reason why Lord Oates should not accept this position, subject to the following conditions:

- For two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Tendo or its clients; and
- He should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service.

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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "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 could ensure that we are informed as soon as Lord Oates takes up this position, or if it is announced that he 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 he had complied with the rules.

As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if he has not already done so, Lord Oates must confirm in writing to your Department that he recognises that he continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Lord Oates informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him 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.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat