



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: BARONESS FALL

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Baroness Fall, the former Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister. She would like take up an appointment with the Atlantic Partnership (AP).

Baroness Fall was Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister from May 2010 to July 2016. Her last day in crown service was the 13th of July 2016.

When considering the application the Committee noted that AP is a charity, a bi-partisan think tank set up to encourage good relations between Europe and North America. Baroness Fall was a founding director of the charity 15 years ago and has now been asked to join AP as a Trustee. In this role she would attend board meetings two to three times a year and assist the organisation by giving general advice. This is a part time role and it is unpaid.

The Committee noted that Baroness Fall did not have any dealings with AP while in office and that having sought the views of her former Department, they raised no concerns about her taking up the role. The Committee also noted the role may include some contact with Government as the Chairman of AP occasionally invites members of the UK and European Governments to speak at events.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that the appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- that she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation 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, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Atlantic Partnership.

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. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that,

if she has not already done so, Baroness Fall must confirm in writing to her department that she recognises that she continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by her duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.)

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 us know whether the Permanent Secretary is content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Baroness Fall takes up this role, 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Baroness Fall complied with the Rules.

Once this appointment has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Newton
Committee Secretariat