



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a new appointment as an External Adviser to the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).

The Committee noted that this role would involve advising the Public Services and Communities Change Aim Panel.

When considering your application the Committee noted that you met the CEO of the RSA on one or two occasions while in office, and that the CEO spoke at the Welsh Government Public Service Leadership Summit. However, they took into account that you were unaware of any other relationship between the RSA and your former department. They also noted that you met with several other think tanks in similar fields while in office, but did not have access to any commercially sensitive information about them and were not involved in any policy decisions of relevance.

The Committee took into account that the Welsh Government had no concerns about you taking up this appointment.

Taking into account all the circumstances the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this role, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the Welsh Government on behalf of the RSA.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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 or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "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 inform us as soon as you take up this appointment, 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 which have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change this role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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

Leighton Andrews