



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Mr Manzoni,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: SIR CRAIG STEWART OLIVER

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Craig Oliver, former Director of Politics and Communications in the Prime Minister's Office. He sought advice on accepting a full-time, paid, role as Senior Managing Director at Teneo Blue Rubicon (Teneo), a global strategic consulting firm. The role would be based in London and consulting to a diverse range of clients on a wide range of business issues, including: communications, strategy, campaigns, reputation and organisational change. Sir Craig was Director of Politics and Communications between February 2011 and July 2016.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that whilst Teneo has a specific Government division, Sir Craig has declared the he would have no involvement with Government if he takes up this appointment. They noted that Sir Craig had no direct on indirect contractual dealings with Teneo over the last two years of service; neither did he have access to any commercially sensitive information about any of its competitors. The Committee also noted that Sir Craig's former department had no propriety concerns about this appointment.

The Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that it can see no reason why Sir Craig should not take up this role, subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and

- for two years from his last day in service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Teneo, including Teneo Holdings, their subsidiaries or their clients.

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 he has not already done so, Sir Craig must confirm in writing to his 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.)

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 would 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 Sir Craig takes up this role, 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether Sir Craig 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

Catriona Marshall
Committee Secretariat