



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

19 June 2017

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: David Prout

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from David Prout, Director General of HS2, Department for Transport (DfT). His last day of Crown service will be 11 July 2017.

The Committee took into consideration that this is a full time paid role as Pro Vice Chancellor at the University of Oxford. The role will involve administration of capital and administrative resources.

The Committee took into account that Mr Prout, and his former department, confirmed he had no official dealings with the University of Oxford or their competitors in the higher education sector during his time in Crown service and although DfT may sponsor some research being undertaken at Oxford University, Mr Prout would not have been directly involved.

The Committee also took into account that his new role is unrelated to his time in office and will involve no contact with DfT, but may involve contact with the Department for Education.

The Committee also considered DfT's views, who raised no concerns with the Committee about Mr Prout taking up this role.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- that 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 the University of Oxford.

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 ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Prout 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.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Mr Prout 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 this 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

Alex Morrow
Committee Secretariat