



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Mr Bristow,

You sought the Committee's advice about becoming a Partner with Heligan Capital Partners and GPE Capital Partners (two companies in the same partnership).

Appointment details

These organisations provide independent advisory services - offering corporate strategy, finance, and turnaround services. You said your duties will include working with clients to enable them to anticipate and respond to business challenges and opportunities. You noted the work will be paid and part-time. You confirmed to the Committee that you had no contact with these organisations whilst in post as Head of the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The Committee's consideration

The Committee considered this commission to be consistent with the terms of your independent consultancy, which was described as covering areas including: leadership and management development; risk and reputation management; governance and standards; and law enforcement, security and policing.

Under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the conditions imposed on your consultancy are:

- you should not draw on any privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- for two years from your last day in Crown service you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise; and

· you should seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each subsequent individual commission is consistent with the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

The Committee considered whether there were any other conditions that should be imposed under the Business Appointment Rules. It concluded those above were sufficient to mitigate any risks in you taking up this post, given you had no contact with the organisations whilst in office and over 21 months have passed since you left your post as a Crown servant.

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 "*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 let me know when you take up this commission, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish this letter and brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Parkington
Committee Secretariat