



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about a new appointment as a Distinguished Fellow at Chatham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

The Committee's remit

As you will be aware, it is the Committee's role to advise on any conditions that should apply to appointments or employment under the Government's Business Appointments Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules), which apply to former Ministers for two years after they leave office.

The Rules seek to counter suspicion that:

- a) the decisions and statements of a serving Minister might be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation; or
- b) an employer could make improper use of official information to which a former Minister has had access; or
- c) there may be cause for concern about the appointment in some other particular respect.

When the Committee considers applications it must have in mind that Government has judged that it is in the public interest that former Ministers with experience in Government should be able to move into business or into other areas of public life, and to be able to start a new career or resume a former one. It is equally important that when a former Minister takes up a particular appointment or employment, there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety.

Appointment details

Chatham House is an independent policy institute based in London. It describes its mission as to be a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a prosperous and secure world for all. It does so by drawing on their membership to promote open and confidential debates about significant developments in international affairs; producing independent analysis of global, regional and country specific challenges; and by offering new ideas to decision-makers on how these could best be

tackled.

Chatham House is a registered charity which is funded via numerous activities including sponsorships; grants; donor contributions; or core support to research and subscriptions from members (including individuals, private companies, government departments, embassies, academic institutions, media organisations and NGOs); and royalties from its publications of the International Affairs journal and subscriptions to The World Today.

Chatham House confirmed with you that the role as a Distinguished Fellow would require no specific time commitment and is unpaid (though, should you work on funded project activity - you may be compensated for your time on a consultancy basis).

Chatham House have described your role, as including:

- Contributing principally to Chatham House's work across the field of the global economy and international finance.
- Potentially joining a Senior Advisory Group which may be established to offer guidance on possible areas of research and other activities.
- Potentially contributing to the work of Chatham House's Centre on Global Health Security, led by Dr David Heymann and which has an ongoing stream of work on combating anti-microbial resistance.
- He may also be asked to contribute to roundtable discussions and conferences.

You told the Committee you had no official dealings with Chatham House though whilst in post at HM Treasury (HMT) you did speak at Chatham House.

We asked the Permanent Secretary at HMT for information in relation to this role. HMT confirmed it was a donor to Chatham House in the 16/17 financial year of up to £9,999 and that the International and EU Group at HMT has a corporate membership with Chatham House (which costs about £3000 per year).

With regard to your relevant dealings with Chatham House, HMT confirmed you made two speeches made in June 2016, on Global Trade; and in October 2015 at an event called 'The Renminbi and the Changing Dynamics of the International Monetary System'.

HMT did not consider you had any any sensitive information that would be of any value in this role, especially given the time that has passed since you left office and the new Government's manifesto. It has no concerns about you taking up this post.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee took into consideration that this an unpaid role as a fellow for not-for-profit think-tank which focuses on international affairs; and that you had no official dealings with Chatham House over and above speaking at their events in 2015 and 2016. There is another connection with HMT, as with other government departments, in that HMT has helped fund research and has a corporate membership with Chatham House. The Committee also recognises that you have a background in finance, economics and research. The Committee does not consider this role to have a direct connection to your time in office and sees little risk you could be seen to have been offered this role for actions or decisions taken in office.

The Committee took into consideration HMT's view that the time which has passed since you left office (14 months), and the change in Government, means you do not have access to any particularly sensitive information, such as unannounced policy. The Committee considered there was nothing to suggest that you would offer Chatham House an unfair advantage, given the usual restrictions placed on former Ministers. The Committee also recognised that you may have some contact with Government given the links Chatham House has via research and the bringing together of experts and decision makers for discussion. However, the conditions imposed make clear that it would be inappropriate to use your contacts made in office to secure funding for Chatham House.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- for two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs. This is not intended to prevent you from having routine contact with Government in your role as a Distinguished Fellow. However, it would prevent you from making use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government to secure funding on behalf of Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

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 inform us as soon as you take up employment with the British Academy/Royal Society Steering Group, 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Rules and the Ministerial Code.

Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.

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

The Right Honourable Lord O'Neill