



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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June 2017

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATIONS: Lt Gen Philip Jones CB CBE

The Committee has been asked to consider applications from Lt Gen Jones, former Chief of Staff, NATO, who proposes to take up positions as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at ABF The Soldiers' Charity (ABF) and Chief Operating Officer at Equilibrium Gulf. Lt Gen Jones has also sought the Committee's advice on establishing an independent consultancy, Othrys Limited.

Lt Gen Jones was Chief of Staff, NATO from October 2013 to December 2015. Between September 2011 and September 2013, he was Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command, Ministry of Defence (MOD). His last day in post was 12 December 2015 and his last day in Crown service was 5 May 2016.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees at ABF, Lt Gen Jones' duties will include strategic oversight and governance of the organisation. Lt Gen Jones stated the role is unpaid and part-time, with a time commitment of one day each month. He confirmed that he had no previous official dealings with ABF or its competitors.

When considering this application the Committee took into account Lt Gen Jones' assertion that this role is likely to include contact with Government, as a result of ABF's charitable support to the army.

Lt Gen Jones also proposes to become Chief Operating Officer at Equilibrium Gulf, as well as Chief of Staff, and will be responsible for the general running of the business. The Committee noted that the organisation is a small, UK-based, geo-strategic advisory company, providing advice to international governments. He stated the role will be paid and part-time, with a time commitment of three days each week.

Lt Gen Jones confirmed he had no official contact with Equilibrium Gulf, whilst he was in office, nor does he expect to have any contact with the Government within this role. He also

confirmed that he had no contact with competitors, no contractual dealings, and does not hold any commercially sensitive information that could give Equilibrium Gulf an unfair advantage.

Further, Lt Gen Jones is establishing an independent consultancy with three friends. He stated he would be a Director and that it will be a "*small start-up consultancy group working in commerce, providing cyber security advice and business intelligence to commercial firms.*" He confirmed he has no commercially sensitive information that could benefit Othrys Limited, and that this role will not involve contact with Government.

When considering these applications the Committee took into account that the MOD Business Appointments Panel expressed no concerns about Lt Gen Jones taking up these positions, subject to the behavioural conditions incorporated below. It also considered that the MOD confirmed it had no contractual dealings with ABF or Equilibrium Gulf and was mindful that 18 months have past since Lt Gen Jones' last day in post.

Taking into account all these factors, the Committee's advice to the Secretary of State is that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, Lt Gen Jones' appointments and independent consultancy be 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;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the organisations to which this advice refers, or their subsidiaries, partners or clients. He should not make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy, or secure business or funding on their behalf;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not undertake any work as a consultant that involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD or is trading funds;
- for two years from his last day of service he should not undertake any work as Director of Othrys Limited that involves providing advice to any company or organisation involved in or on matters relating to the UK defence market.

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 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."

Yours sincerely

Sarah Parkington
Committee Secretariat

