



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>

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: SIR MARK LYALL GRANT KCMG

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Mark Lyall Grant, former National Security Adviser.

Application details

Sir Mark proposes to take up a position as a member of the Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) at Equilibrium Global (EqG), a geostrategic advisory company, "designed to help governments meet the challenges of the modern world." It brings together international leaders through international advisory boards and international defence and security advisory boards. This is a part-time, unpaid role.

Sir Mark explained to the Committee that the SAT is a group of experienced people who have agreed to make themselves available to EqG as a source of advice and potential inclusion in a relevant group that could be put together to advise a government or commercial entity. There is no remuneration attached to being a member of the SAT. He has said that the appointment is not likely to include any contact or dealings with Government.

He was asked to join the SAT by General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceaux (former Chief of the Defence Staff and Chairman of EqG). Sir Mark had no dealings with EqG while in office, but did have dealings with General Richards, when General Richards was CDS.

The Director General, Propriety and Ethics at the Cabinet Office advised that she has no concerns about this appointment.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee's view is that this appointment is unlikely be seen as a reward as it is unpaid and Sir Mark had no dealings with EqG while in office and was not involved in any policy decisions that may have affected EqG or in awarding any contracts or grants.

There is nothing to suggest that EqG would gain an unfair advantage by employing Sir Mark, and he has said that the appointment is not likely to include any contact or dealings with Government. The extended lobbying ban that the Committee has recommended is clear that he may not make use of his contacts, whether directly or indirectly, to influence policy or secure business.

The Committee noted that the 3-month standard waiting period that applies to Permanent Secretaries and their equivalents had expired.

Conditions

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.
- For two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Equilibrium Global or its clients or make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on their behalf.

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 Sir Mark 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 that 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 Sir Mark 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 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.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat