



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: OWEN EVANS

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules on behalf of Owen Evans, former Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Government, with responsibility for Education and Public Services. His last day in the Civil Service was 30 September 2017.

Mr Evans' appointment as Chief Executive of S4C, a Welsh-language public-service television channel based in Cardiff, was announced by S4C in May 2017, before an application under the Business Appointment Rules had been made.

The Committee wishes to register its concern that this appointment was announced before an application had been submitted and the Committee had been given an opportunity to provide its advice.

The Government's Business Appointment Rules for Civil Servants specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. To fulfil the remit given to it by Government, the Committee needs to be able to consider an application fully and freely before offering its advice. It is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been announced and/or taken up. The Committee is therefore unwilling to give retrospective advice for this appointment.

However, the Committee would formally record that:

- Mr Evans confirmed he was offered the job following an application process. It is a full-time, paid role.
- He has said that it is possible that the role will involve some dealings with the Welsh Government, although he noted that broadcasting is not a devolved matter.
- He said that he had no contact with S4C while in Government, contractual or otherwise.
- He told the Committee that he was not involved in the development or administration of policy decisions that have affected or could affect his employer.
- The Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Government noted that Mr Evan's department has responsibility for Welsh language policy but this would apply in any sphere rather than

specifically in relation to the activities of S4C. She therefore had no reservations about this appointment.

Although the Committee has declined to give advice on this appointment, it wishes to draw Mr Evans' attention to the normal restrictions it imposes prohibiting lobbying and using privileged information obtained while in public office.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat