



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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Dear Sir Nick

The Committee has considered your request to accept a commission under the terms of your independent consultancy.

**Tadaweb** - strategic adviser.

Tadaweb is a technology company specialising in open source search techniques across the internet to support corporate risk assessment, trend analysis and decision making. You would advise the Board on training, mentoring, corporate expansion and potential security applications of their technology. There would be no contact with Government. You explained that there is potential for Government to adopt the technology but your role would be advisory only. The work would involve 10 days per year.

The Committee's consideration

When considering the commission set out above, the Committee took into account that the company is working in an area with potential applicability to the Defence sector. The Committee considers there is no compelling reason for waiving the condition attached to your independent consultancy - that for two years from your last day in post you should not work in the UK Defence market.

Additionally, the Committee considers it appropriate to expand the terms of the ban to make it explicit that you may not advise on the UK Defence market. This will preclude you from advising on future work with the MOD. The Committee considers this is proportionate and mitigates the potential perception that you would be affording the company an unfair advantage given your previous position as Chief of Defence Staff.

**The Committee agrees that this commission is consistent with the terms of your independent consultancy, which was described as advising at board level on corporate leadership, operating model enhancements and geo-political risk.**

The conditions that apply to your independent consultancy are:

- a three-month waiting period from your last day in Crown service;

- that you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in Crown service;
- for two years from your last day in post you should not work in the UK Defence market;
- for two years from your last day in Crown service, you 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 your last day of Crown service you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise, nor make use of, directly or indirectly, your Government and/or Crown Service contacts to influence policy or secure business on behalf of your clients; and
- for two years from your last day in Crown service, before accepting any new commissions and or/before extending or otherwise changing the nature of any commission, you should make a case directly to the Committee to confirm that each individual commission you wish to take would be permissible under the terms of this consultancy.

**The Committee considers that the following additional condition applies to the commission with Tadaweb:**

- for two years from your last day in post you should not advise on 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, 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,

Nicola Richardson  
Committee Secretariat