

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21 March 2018

## Present

Baroness Browning (Chair)  
Sir Alex Allan  
Jonathan Baume  
Lord German  
Terence Jagger  
Dr Susan Liautaud  
Baroness Liddell  
Richard Thomas  
John Wood

## Secretariat

Peter Lawrence  
Cat Marshall  
Maggie O'Boyle  
Sarah Parkington  
Nicola Richardson

## Chair's update

1. The Chair welcomed the Committee's new members, Jonathan Baume, Dr Susan Liautaud and Richard Thomas.
2. The Chair updated members on her continuing programme of meetings with Permanent Secretaries to discuss the Business Appointment Rules. She noted the meetings that have taken place so far this year with Philip Rycroft at the Department for Exiting the European Union; Sir Chris Wormald at the Department of Health and Social Care; and with the MOD's new HR Director and members of the MOD Business Appointments Panel.
3. Arrangements were also being made for future meetings, including with the Minister for the Cabinet Office in April and a further meeting with the MOD.

## Minutes of the last meeting

4. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 13 December 2017, were approved.

## **The Committee's approach to independent consultancies and commissions**

5. The Committee discussed its current approach to dealing with applications for advice on establishing independent consultancies and taking up subsequent commissions. Members agreed the current approach was appropriate but it would be useful to consider whether advice letters could be clearer about the approach taken and the consideration in each case.

## **Data recording**

6. The Committee noted the update provided by the Secretariat on applications dealt with in this year to date.

## **Transparency**

7. The Committee noted the update provided by the Secretariat on the work being done to improve the information available on ACOBA's GOV.UK pages.

## **Freedom of Information**

8. The Secretariat provided an update on FOI casework, including an update on the outcome of Case No. GIA/447/2017 (an appeal brought by the Information Commissioner's Office (the ICO) against a First Tier Tribunal decision, relating to ACOBA's handling of a request for information). The Upper Tribunal upheld the ICO's appeal and remitted it to be re-heard by a different First-Tier Tribunal.

## **Communications**

9. The Press Officer, Maggie O'Boyle, updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

## **Any Other Business**

10. The next Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 16 May 2018.

**Committee Secretariat**  
**March 2018**