

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017

Present

Baroness Browning (Chair)
Mark Addison
Sir Alex Allan
Lord German
Terence Jagger
Baroness Liddell
John Wood

Secretariat

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

1. Committee member Mary Jo Jacobi sent her apologies. The Chair welcomed Sarah Parkington, who had recently joined the Secretariat.
2. Sue Gray, Director General for Propriety and Ethics attended to provide an update from the Cabinet Office on issues relating to Business Appointments and the Rules. There was a discussion about the recommendations in the recently published report of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, following its inquiry into the role and effectiveness of ACOBA.

Chair's Update

3. The Chair reported that she had met John Manzoni, Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office and Tom Scholar, Permanent Secretary at HM Treasury in March to discuss issues relating to the Business Appointment Rules and how they are applied in their departments.
4. A new Civilian HR Director has been appointed at the MOD. She will attend the next Committee meeting in October.

Communications

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

Minutes of the last meeting

6. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1 March 2017, were approved.

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Commissions

7. The Committee discussed its approach to considering applications for advice on commissions under the terms of an independent consultancy.

Appointments with Government

8. The Committee agreed that in circumstances where a former Crown servant or Minister has been appointed by Government, this would suggest that the Business Appointment Rules are not engaged and an application to the Committee is not required. However, the Committee would continue to assess this on a case-by-case basis.

Freedom of information

9. The Secretariat provided an update on FOI casework.

Any Other Business

10. The next Committee meeting would take place on Wednesday 10 October 2017.

**Committee Secretariat
May 2017**