



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Dear Vice Admiral Hudson,

On 3 January this year I wrote to you on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments about your request to accept a commission with Burson-Marsteller (BM), a global public relations and communications firm, as a senior military advisor. The Committee noted that your role would be to help to establish a new defence section for BM. You would act as a trusted advisor to board members on the European defence sector, raising awareness on defence and security issues so that BM can provide expertise to clients on such matters within the context of their core outputs.

The work would involve 2 days per month for a period of 6 months, starting in February 2017.

The Committee noted that you left your position as Commander of NATO Maritime Command in October 2015.

You have since contacted the Committee to explain that your contract will now run until at least February 2018 (which is beyond the expiry of the period during which you are subject to the Business Appointment Rules). You confirmed that there has been no change to your role or job specification.

The Committee agrees that this commission is consistent with the terms of your consultancy, which centres on the future operational landscape and potential crises as well as highlighting capability shortfalls across Europe. Your consultancy will utilise your strategic understanding of the international community, engage in training roles and will not target individual equipment programmes.

The conditions that apply to your consultancy are:

- A waiting period of six months from your last day in Crown service (now expired);
- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation 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 service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of any of your clients or those you advise;
- For 12 months from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant which involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD; and
- For two years from your last day of service, before accepting any new commission you should apply to the Committee for approval to confirm that it is acceptable under the Committee's guidelines.

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.*"

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat