



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

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Dear Mr Hannigan,

You sought the Committee's advice about accepting a commission with the Centre for Secure Information Technologies under the terms of your independent consultancy. The Committee has now considered your application.

Commission details

The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queen's University, Belfast, has won the bid to deliver the London Cyber Innovation Centre (LCIC) as part of a consortium with Deloitte.

LCIC is a Government backed initiative to develop the next generation of cyber security technology. You have been invited to chair the Industry Advisory Board (IAB), which will give strategic direction to the LCIC. Your role will be to advise on the cyber industry context and trends.

You noted this position would be paid. You confirmed you had no involvement in the bid and had no contact with CSIT whilst at GCHQ.

The HR Director at GCHQ has confirmed that GCHQ does not believe that the appointment gives rise to any actual or perceived conflict of interest.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee agrees that this commission is consistent with the terms of your independent consultancy, which you described as - providing strategic advice on risk, primarily, but not exclusively, in the context of cyber security.

Under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the commission with the Centre for Secure Information Technologies should be subject to the same conditions that apply to your independent consultancy, namely:

- that you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself 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 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 should you make use, directly or indirectly, of your Government and/or Crown service contacts to influence policy or secure business on behalf of your clients;
- for two years from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant that involves providing advice to any company or organisation on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of GCHQ; and
- for two years from your last day in Crown service, before accepting any commissions and or/before extending or otherwise changing the nature of any commission, you should seek advice from the Committee. The Committee will decide whether each commission is consistent with the terms of your consultancy and consider any relevant factors under the Business Appointment Rules.

Additionally, the Committee has imposed the following condition on your commission with CSIT:

- For two years from your last day of service, you should not make use, directly or indirectly, of your Government and/or Crown service contacts to secure funding on behalf of CSIT.

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