



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You sought the Committee's advice about taking up a role at London Speaker Bureau.

The Committee's remit

It is the Committee's role to advise on any conditions that should apply to appointments or employment under the Government's Business Appointments Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules), which apply to former Ministers for two years after they leave office.

The Rules seek to counter suspicion that:

- a) the decisions and statements of a serving Minister might be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation; or
- b) an employer could make improper use of official information to which a former Minister has had access; or
- c) there may be cause for concern about the appointment in some other particular respect.

When the Committee considers applications it must have in mind that Government has judged that it is in the public interest that former Ministers with experience in Government should be able to move into business or into other areas of public life, and to be able to start a new career or resume a former one. It is equally important that when a former Minister takes up a particular appointment or employment, there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety.

It is not the Committee's role to pass judgment on whether an appointment is appropriate or suitable in any other regard.

Appointment details

You wish to take up a paid, part-time role with London Speaker Bureau (LSB), a speaking bureau representing high profile clients. You said that LSB will represent you and seek to secure speaking opportunities on your behalf.

From the Chair

You confirmed you do not expect to have contact with Government in this role; that you had no contact with the company whilst in office; and that you hold no sensitive information related to LSB.

DExEU confirmed it has no concerns about you taking up this appointment with LSB; and that it does not have an established relationship with LSB. DExEU recommended this appointment be made subject to a condition precluding you from drawing on privileged information; and a lobbying ban.

The Committee's consideration

When considering your application, the Committee¹ took into account that you had no dealings with LSB whilst in ministerial office; and that you do not expect to have contact with your former department or government more generally.

The Committee did not consider this appointment raises any propriety concerns under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, however it would like to draw your attention to the conditions below. In particular, the restriction that you should not draw on privileged information available to you from your time in office. (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.)

The Committee also took into account that, as a former Cabinet Minister, you are subject to a standard three-month waiting period before taking up any outside appointment.

Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- a waiting period of three months from your last day in office (that is, you must not take up this appointment before 9 October 2018);
- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in ministerial office; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of London Speaker Bureau or its clients.

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.*"

The Committee also notes that in addition to the conditions imposed on this appointment, there are separate rules in place with regard to your role in the House of Commons; and applicants are

¹ This application for advice was considered by Sir Alex Allan; Jonathan Baume; Baroness Angela Browning; Terence Jagger; Dr Susan Liautaud; Richard Thomas and John Wood. Baroness Helen Liddell and Lord Michael German were unavailable.

From the Chair

also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up this role, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Rules and the Ministerial Code.

Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website, and where appropriate, refer to it in the relevant annual report.

The Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon David Davis MP

