



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LOUISE CASEY DBE CB

The Committee has been asked to consider an application for advice from Dame Louise Casey, former Director General at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on taking up an appointment as a Trustee at The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation.

Appointment details

Dame Louise described the Trustee role as unpaid and part-time; participating in quarterly board meetings; and having responsibility for the oversight of the Charitable Foundation along with fellow members of the board of Trustees.

Dame Louise stated she had no dealings with the charity whilst in office.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) does not consider it could reasonably be viewed that Dame Louise has taken up this voluntary duty as a "reward" for her time in the Department or Government. Nor, in the Department's view, did she have any access to policy or knowledge of a privileged nature that would be relevant to the Foundation. The Department supports Dame Louise in taking up the role subject to a bar on lobbying Government.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee¹ noted that this role is unpaid and also took into account that Dame Louise had no official dealings with the Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation whilst she was in office. It agrees with the Department's assessment that the appointment cannot reasonably be perceived as a reward.

The Committee considered the risk of the Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation gaining an unfair advantage through Dame Louise's appointment is low. The Department confirmed she did not have access to any sensitive information that could benefit the Foundation. Further, Dame Louise does not expect to have contact with Government in this role.

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

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service; and
- for two years from her last day in Crown service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation, nor should she make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation.

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."*

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Dame Louise takes up this position, or if it is announced that she will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Louise informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

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

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat