



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/08, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

25 July 2018

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper

Dear Sir Christopher,

You sought the Committee's advice about taking up a commission under your independent consultancy with Eagle Eye Innovations Ltd. The Committee has now considered your application.

Commission details

You informed the Committee that you had been offered a paid position, through your independent consultancy, to be a non-executive advisory consultant for between one and three days per month for Eagle Eye Innovations Ltd (Eagle Eye).

Eagle Eye comprises a team of professional aviators (predominantly ex-UK military) who specialise in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). They work nationally and internationally in providing training, advice and consultation in this field.

You explained that Eagle Eye are seeking your services, '*as a result of my extensive experience in aviation, and my awareness of the potential demands for civilian operation of UAVs in the national and international defence and security sector.*'

You said that Eagle Eye's work predominantly involves interaction with emergency services and humanitarian organisations, and with the energy and telecommunications industries.

You confirmed that you had no official dealings with Eagle Eye at any time in your RAF career and that there was no relationship between the organisation and your last department or role. You had not heard of Eagle Eye in any capacity until 3 months ago.

You explained that Eagle Eye does not wish you to provide direct commercial or contracting advice.

The MOD Business Appointments Panel was consulted and can see no propriety concerns with this appointment. The MOD Commercial Team have confirmed that the MOD has no contracts with and has made no payments to Eagle Eye Innovations within the last two financial years.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee¹ noted that Eagle Eye is seeking your services because of your insight into the national and international defence and security sector.

The Committee agrees that this commission is consistent with the terms of your independent consultancy, CH4C Global Ltd, which you described as offering geopolitical and strategic consulting services in the international defence and security sector. You explained that CH4C Global Ltd would not provide direct commercial or contracting advice.

When considering this application the Committee took into account that Eagle Eye does not currently have any contracts with the MOD. It noted that Eagle Eye does not wish CH4C Global Ltd to provide direct commercial or contracting advice. However, it considered that should Eagle Eye seek to engage with the MOD, there is a potential risk you could unfairly advantage the company over competitors by virtue of your time in office. The Committee therefore considered that, in addition to the conditions that it has already imposed on your consultancy, it would be appropriate to extend the 12-month ban on advising on bids or contracts relating to the work of the MOD (which has now expired), to two years.

Under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the commission with Eagle Eye should be subject to the following conditions:

- 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;
- For two years from your last day of service you should not undertake any work as a consultant that involves providing advice to Eagle Eye Innovations Ltd on the terms of a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the MOD or its trading funds;
- 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 the consultancy and consider any relevant factors under the Business Appointment Rules.

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.*"

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

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 on the Committee's website, and where appropriate, refer to it in the relevant annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat

