

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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1. You approached the Committee about taking up an appointment as a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard University.

The Committee's role and remit

2. It is the Committee's role to advise on the 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.

3. 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.

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

Appointment Details

5. You seek to take up an unpaid, part time appointment as a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard University. The Harvard Kennedy school specialises in politics and policy and offers a number of different programmes including masters and doctoral. It also provides courses on a range of Government and politics related

subjects such as economics and research. It is the public policy and public administration school of Harvard University, in Massachusetts, USA. It also offers a range of courses for those currently in Government and politics related work.

6. You stated your role will be a senior fellow of the school and will do independent study on a research project. You said you will research '*How both the public and private sectors can more effectively test and refine their response to progressive high-impact, low probability events such as the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic*'. You do not expect this role to involve contact with the UK Government.

7. You informed the Committee you neither met, nor made any commercial or contractual decisions with or on the school/university while in post. Nor did you have any involvement in policy development or decisions that affected the school/university.

8. The Permanent Secretary at HM Treasury (HMT) was consulted and confirmed your above statements. It also confirmed it had no relationship with the University.

The Committee's consideration

9. When considering this application, the Committee took into account this appointment is not connected to your role in office. You did not meet with, make any policy or contractual decisions regarding the university while in office. Further, the Committee noted this role is unpaid and as such considered the risk you were offered the role for decisions made in post as low.

10. The Committee noted that you were not involved in, nor responsible, for policy decisions regarding USA universities. However, by virtue of your role it could be perceived you might have general information of a privileged nature which may provide an unfair advantage. The Committee further noted that due to your role you will have built up a network of contacts in government. The Committee considers that the conditions below sufficiently mitigate the risks in this case.

11. Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises this appointment with **Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard University** be subject to the following conditions:

- 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;
- for two years from your last day in Ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard University (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); nor should you make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in the Government and/or Crown service to influence policy, secure business/funding or otherwise unfairly advantage The Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard University (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); and
- for two years from your last day in Ministerial office you should not undertake any work with The Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Centre, Harvard

University that involves providing advice on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of a bid with, or contract relating directly to the work of, the UK Government.

12. 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.

13. 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.*"

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 Rt Hon Lord Pickles

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP