



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: Mayank Prakash

1. The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Mr Mayank Prakash, former Director General at Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) between 11 November 2014 - 31 December 2018. He seeks to take up a Chief Technology Officer role with Tilney Group.
2. Mr Prakash's last day in post was 31 December 2018.

Application Details

3. Mr Prakash seeks to take up a paid, full time role as Group Chief Technology Officer (to become Chief Operating Officer [COO] upon retirement of the incumbent) with Tilney Group. Tilney Group is a financial planning and investment firm providing financial planning, investment management and advisory services.
4. Mr Prakash stated as Group Chief Technology Officer and subsequently COO he will be responsible for:
 - leading operations, technology, data and security to run ongoing business operations as per the business plan
 - set and manage future business plans and shape the future digitalisation of customer journeys and market propositions covering technology, product, engineering and change cover
5. Mr Prakash confirmed he had no official contact with Tilney Group whilst in office, holds no sensitive information related to the organisation or their competitors and confirmed he does not expect to have contact with Government in this role.
6. DWP confirmed the above, and stated no reservations with Mr Prakash taking up this post.

The Committee's consideration

7. When considering this application, the Committee took into account that Mr Prakash had no official dealings with Tilney Group whilst in Crown service and that he does not expect to have contact with the government.

8. The Committee did not consider this appointment raises any propriety concerns under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, however it would like to draw Mr Prakash's attention to the conditions below. In particular, the restriction that he should not draw on privileged information available to him from his time in post. (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 would also like to bring to Mr Prakash's attention that it would be inappropriate for Mr Prakash to make contact with the Government on behalf of Tilney Group should they wish for this in future.

9. 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:

- that he should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service; and
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Tilney Group (including parent companies, subsidiaries, clients and partners), nor should he make use, directly or indirectly, of Tilney Group government/Whitehall contacts to influence policy, secure funding/business or otherwise unfairly advantage Tilney Group (including parent companies, subsidiaries, clients and partners).

10. 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 or otherwise.

11. 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."

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

Yours sincerely

Andrea Benjamin
Committee Secretariat