



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: Sir Andrew Parker KCB

1. The Committee has been asked to consider an application under the Government's Business Appointment Rules (the Rules) from Sir Andrew Parker KCB, former Director General at the MI5. He seeks to take up a role with Telicent Limited.
2. Sir Andrew was Director General from March 2013. His last day in Crown service was 24 April 2020.

The Committee's role and remit

3. The purpose of the Rules is to protect the integrity of the Government. As Director General at MI5 Sir Andrew held overall responsibility for the operations of MI5, the key focus of which is the protection of national security. He is now seeking to work for a technology start-up with a focus on defence and security.
4. Under the Rules, the Committee's remit is to consider the risks associated with the actions and decisions Sir Andrew made during his time in office, alongside the information and influence he may offer Telicent, based on the information provided by him and his former department.
5. The Committee considered whether this appointment was unsuitable given his former role, whilst considering the information provided by him and his previous department about his dealings with this policy area, the employer and the sector. The Committee has advised that a number of conditions be imposed to mitigate the potential risks to the Government associated with this appointment under the Rules; this does not imply the Committee has taken a view on the appropriateness of this appointment for a former Director General for MI5 in any other respect.
6. The Rules sets out that Crown servants must abide by the Committee's advice. It is an applicant's personal responsibility to manage the propriety of any appointment. Former Crown servants are expected to uphold the highest standards of propriety and act in

accordance with the 7 Principles of Public Life and the Codes of Conduct in place during their time in office.

Appointment Details

7. Sir Andrew sought advice on taking up a role as an Advisor with Telicent, an Information Technology services provider and software developer. It is a start-up in this sector; it was incorporated in February 2020. Sir Andrew said recent projects for Telicent include the development of a new software platform to enhance the usability of older programmes with newer cloud-based apps in a secure way, as well as the writing of various other apps. Its target market is general, though he said the initial focus would be on defence, law enforcement and security.

8. Sir Andrew has been invited to act as an advisor to the three Directors of the company. He said the role will be to offer external perspective to their business as it develops. Sir Andrew will be compensated through an equity stake in exchange for a commitment of two day's work per year. Sir Andrew noted he would not participate in any sales activity, nor in any contact with potential public sector clients should any develop in the future. He further stated he would not make introductions to people he knew through his MI5 career nor draw on privileged information and that these terms have been agreed in advance with the company. He does not expect to have any contact with the Government in this role.

9. The Cabinet Office noted Sir Andrew's official role was both high profile and senior, he is therefore likely to have had access to a wide range of information, some of which may impact the sector this company will operate in. Overall Cabinet Office had no reservations about this appointment subject to the standard conditions for someone of his seniority.

10. The Home Office added that likewise with the standard conditions it had no reservations about this appointment, noting its possible defence target market, subject to the usual conditions.

The Committee's Consideration

11. The Committee considered whether this appointment could be considered a reward for actions taken whilst in office. Sir Andrew did not have any official dealings with the Telicent or its directors whilst in office and did not make contractual or policy decisions that would have specifically affected this new company. There is nothing to suggest he made any decisions or took action whilst in office with the expectation of a future role with this company.

12. The Committee considered that, by virtue of his role as Director General at MI5, it could be perceived Sir Andrew could offer Telicent an unfair advantage over competitors as he will be providing advice to a company focusing on defence and security. This could give them an unfair advantage over their competitors due to Sir Andrew's privileged access to information about the UK's Security strategy from his time in office. The Departments noted Sir Andrew's seniority would mean he has access to a wide range of information however they both recommended this would be mitigated by the conditions that would apply to someone of his seniority. The Committee also noted that 6 months have passed since Sir Andrew left office and that Sir Andrew has stated that his terms with Telicent recognise that he should not be using any privileged information in this role. The Committee would regardless draw Sir Andrew's attention to the conditions below which prevent him from making use of privileged access to information and contacts gained in office.

13. The Committee also noted he could be seen to have influence and a network of contacts within Government. This could be perceived to offer an unfair advantage to Telicent should he become involved in discussions or negotiations on bids and contracts. However, the conditions below make it clear that it would be inappropriate for him to use his contacts across the UK Government (or its intelligence agencies) to the unfair advantage of Telicent. This includes a condition which prevents him advising on bids or contracts with the Government, including the UK Security and Intelligence Agencies. However, the Committee noted this is entirely in keeping with Sir Andrew's stated terms with Telicent.

14. Under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Prime Minister is that Sir Andrew Parker's appointment should be subject to the following conditions:

- he should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him from his time in Crown service;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government or the UK Security and Intelligence Agencies on behalf of Telicent Limited (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); nor should he make use, directly or indirectly, of his contacts in the Government and/or Ministerial contacts to influence policy, secure business/funding or otherwise unfairly advantage Telicent Limited (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); and
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not provide advice to Telicent Limited or its clients on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid with, or contract relating directly to the work of the Government including the UK Security and Intelligence Agencies.

15. 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.

16. 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."

17. Once this 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.

Sam Lynch
Committee Secretariat

