



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

August 2020

### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: Sir Andrew Parker KCB**

1. The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Andrew Parker KCB, former Director General at the MI5. He seeks to take up a role with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).
2. Sir Andrew was Director General from March 2013. His last day in Crown service was 24 April 2020.

#### Appointment Details

3. Sir Andrew intends to take up an unpaid, part time role as Distinguished Fellow, an honorary appointment for RUSI involving up to 1 day of work per year. The website says it is a defence and security think tank with a mission to '*inform, influence and enhance public debate on a safer and more stable world*'. It is a registered charity and draws income from its '*membership subscriptions, the sale of its various outputs and from research contracts, donations and from events funded by a wide range of sources, private and governmental UK-based and international*'.
4. Sir Andrew stated as Distinguished Fellow his role will be:
  - To contribute to the research of the Institute through expertise in specialist research subject areas and experience in activities related to research portfolios.
  - To chair sessions, lectures, dinners etc and speak or act as discussants at events.
  - To expand the Institute's portfolio of expertise in specialist areas and/or in their personal status.
  - To assist in stakeholder engagement.
  - To be the conduit and symbol of relationships with research institutes and academic organisations with which the Institute wishes to maintain partnerships particularly overseas.

5. Sir Andrew also stated: *'RUSI is a highly respected think-tank whose Distinguished Fellows include my predecessor, current and previous JIC Chairs, Chiefs of Staff and so on...I am very familiar with my duty of confidentiality and my obligations under the Official Secrets Act. Although I do not intend any specific projects or work with RUSI, any such I become involved with would of course only ever draw on information in the public domain and opinions of my own'*.
6. Sir Andrew stated he was a member of RUSI's Advisory Board between 2013 - 20, though attended only 2-3 of its meetings over the past 3 years giving a public speech about UK national security at RUSI in October 2013; a public speech at MI5 HQ in front of a RUSI audience in January 2015 and a televised speech on the RUSI premises in front of a media audience in October 2017.
7. Sir Parker stated he had no involvement in either commercial, policy or regulatory decisions regarding RUSI and did not note any contact or information on competitors from his time in post.
8. Cabinet Office countersigned this application. It confirmed the details provided by Sir Andrew and added:
  - The current cadre of distinguished fellows includes those drawn from the military, judiciary and politics, including former heads of MI5, GCHQ and the current chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee.
  - As an unpaid appointment the role is unlikely to be seen as a risk for reward.
  - Sir Andrew does not expect to be involved in its research projects
  - Sir Andrew held a high profile and senior role with access to a *'wide range of information, including the most secret and sensitive'*. He will have had access to sensitive information throughout his career, *'particularly in the last few years as Director General'*. However he has confirmed he is cognisant of the requirements of the Official Secrets Act and is clear he would not lobby Government, or use knowledge and information acquired in his official duties to benefit himself or RUSI'.
  - It also stated *'no reservation about the approval of this appointment in view of its nature and the integrity upheld by the applicant. As the former Director General of the Security Service, there may be media interest in the applicant's future plans, however, I do not believe that his appointment could be seen as improper'*.
9. The MI5 and parent department, Home Office were also contacted regarding this appointment. Neither had any concerns with Sir Andrew taking up this role.

### The Committee's Consideration

9. The Committee<sup>1</sup> took into account that while Sir Parker met with RUSI while in office, this was as part of the usual duties within his role. Additionally, he had no involvement in commercial, policy or regulatory decisions regarding RUSI. The Committee agreed with the Cabinet Office that the risk Mr Parker was offered the appointment as a reward of decisions taken in office are low.
10. The Committee also noted as former Director General at MI5 he would have had access to a wide range of the most sensitive information which could be perceived to benefit any future employer. Sir Parker has confirmed he will only use information in the public domain. The Committee would also draw his attention to the ban on using privileged information.
11. Due to Sir Parker's seniority, the Committee considered it would not be appropriate for Sir Andrew to become involved in a bid or contract relating to the UK Government. Additionally, he stated the role will not include contact with the Government, which the Committee has reflected in the conditions below.
12. The Committee also noted that as former Director General, he is subject to a minimum 3 month waiting period from his last day in Crown service prior to taking up any appointment. This period has now passed.
13. The Committee advises the Prime Minister, that under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, this application with the Royal United Services Institute should be subject to the following conditions:
  - that he should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the organisation 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 on behalf of Royal United Services Institute (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); nor should he make use, directly or indirectly, of his Government and/or Whitehall contacts to influence policy, secure business/funding or otherwise unfairly advantage Royal United Services Institute (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); and
  - for two years from his last day in Crown Service, he should not advise Royal United Services Institute (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients) on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the UK Government.
14. 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

---

<sup>1</sup> This application for advice was considered by Sir Alex Allan; Jonathan Baume; Dr Susan Liataud; Richard Thomas; Mike Weir; Lord Larry Whitty and John Wood. The Rt Hon Lord Pickles was unavailable.

may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

15. 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.”*
16. I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as Sir Andrew takes up employment with this organisation, or if it is announced that will do so. 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 Sir Andrew has complied with the Rules.
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.

Yours Sincerely

Andrea Benjamin  
Committee Secretariat