



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: MR CIARAN MARTIN, CB**

1. The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Mr Ciaran Martin, Chief Executive at National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ, on taking up an appointment with Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).
2. Mr Martin's last day in post and service will be 31 August 2020.

#### Application Details

3. Mr Martin applied to take up an unpaid, part-time role as a Distinguished Fellow for RUSI, 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'*. Mr Martin said his role is an honorary, unpaid appointment. He is expected to give very occasional lectures and attend or lead a seminar from time to time. This role will not involve contact with government.
4. Mr Martin stated he had no dealings with relevant policy; nor was he involved in awarding grants or contracts to RUSI. He did confirm that as one of the UK's foremost security think tank he did: contribute to a handful of its seminars; addressed its annual private dinner in 2017, at invitation of Lord Hague, its Chairman and HRH the Duke of Kent, its patron; and spoke to RUSI's research on various topic of inquiry.
5. Mr Martin further said he did have contact with other think tanks during his time in service but said he treated all major think tanks equally and responded to their invitations to contribute to their work based on their merits. He further confirmed he had no access to commercially sensitive information regarding these competitors. He gave the following examples of his interactions with other think tanks:
  - He made a significant public speech at Chatham House in 2019 and some private seminars there;
  - Addressed a private dinner hosted by the International Institute of strategic Studies;

- Taught a course for US military personal at the Royal College of Defence Studies
6. GCHQ confirmed the details of this application and that it had no reservations with Mr Martin taking up this role. It added the department has worked with RUSI on a range of future National Security studies. Further, stating many individual from the department have attended lectures and spoken at RUSI events, all unpaid. GCHQ also stated as CEO of the NCSC, Mr Martin has been at the forefront of the UK's cyber security strategy. However, the department said he could not offer an unfair advantage to RUSI as all this information is in the public domain.
  7. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) also stated it had no concerns over Mr Martin taking up this appointment.

#### The Committee's consideration

8. When considering this application, the Committee<sup>1</sup> noted the interactions Mr Martin had with RUSI was through seminars, speeches and addressing RUSI's annual private dinner. However, Mr Martin and the departments confirmed he made no policy or contractual decisions regarding RUSI while in office. There is nothing to suggest he made any decisions whilst in office with the expectation of a future role as such the Committee considered the risk he was offered this unpaid role for decisions made in post as low.
9. The Committee considered that by virtue of his role as Chief Executive at NCSC, it could be perceived he could offer RUSI an unfair advantage in providing advice on cyber security to a think tank focussed around defence and security. However, the Committee gave weight to the Department's confirmation that this information is in public record which is keeping with NCSC's purpose and commitment to transparency. Further, the Committee noted Mr Martin had contact with competitors of RUSI, but that this contact was limited to speeches and seminars, like RUSI. Both the department and Mr Martin have confirmed he had no commercially sensitive information on competitors. As such, whilst RUSI will undoubtedly gain from his profile, and his skills and experience in the sector, there is a low risk he holds any sensitive information that would unfairly benefit RUSI.
10. 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 RUSI should he become involved in discussions or negotiations on bids and contracts. Therefore, the lobbying ban imposed below makes clear that it would be inappropriate for him to use his contacts across the UK Government to the unfair advantage of RUSI. The Committee would also like to draw his attention to the ban on providing advice on the terms, a bid or contract relating directly to the work of the UK Government, including with regard to contracts. However, the Committee noted this is entirely in keeping with Mr Martin's intended role as a Distinguished Fellow.
11. Under the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that this application with **Royal United Services Institute** 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

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

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.
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 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. I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as Mr Martin takes up employment with this organisation, or if it is announced that Mar Martin 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 Mr Martin has complied with the Rules.
15. Please also inform us if Mr Martin proposes 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.
16. 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

Isabella Wynn  
Committee Secretariat

