



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: Paul Madden

1. Paul Madden has requested advice on taking up an appointment with Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), as an Advisor. Mr Madden was previously British Ambassador to Japan from January 2017- February 2020.

Application Details

2. NTT, is a Japanese telecommunications company headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Ranked 55th in Fortune Global 500, NTT is the fourth largest telecommunications company in the world in terms of revenue. The organisation's headquarters for global business is in the UK.

3. Mr Madden is proposing he take up a role as an Advisor. He said he will be offering general advice to the organisation about the UK economy and politics, tailored in a way that makes sense to NTT employees. He stated this would likely involve meeting their senior people when they come through London. He stated this role will not involve contact with the UK Government.

4. Mr Madden stated he has no experience, knowledge or contacts in the UK regulators for the industry in which NTT operates. He stated he has been involved in the negotiation of a UK/Japan free trade agreement, and like all ambassadors have been regularly briefed on developments in the UK's departure from the EU. He stated these issues affect many companies. Mr Madden stated he made occasional calls on senior contacts within the company, in the context of their decision last year to locate their global business HQ in London. He further stated that *'This is something the Embassy has been keen to encourage as part of our general promotion of Japanese investment into the UK.'* He stated he has not been involved in any detailed regulatory or contractual issues relating to the company

5. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) confirmed Mr Madden's application details. It had no concerns with the appointment, confirming he had only routine contact with NTT whilst in office and did not make any policy, contractual or regulatory decisions that would have affected NTT specifically. It noted

that Mr Madden was involved in the negotiation of the UK's trade deals with Japan and would have had knowledge of Brexit negotiations. However with the conclusion of the UK trade deal negotiations with Japan and the EU the FCDO did not believe he would have access to policy, commercial or other departmental information, knowledge of which could give the prospective employer an unfair advantage. It stated that Mr Madden's appointment should be subject to the standard 6 month waiting period and should not return to the country he held post in for these 6 months. In addition, it stated Mr Madden was not close to the Brexit negotiations but instead responsible for disseminating HMG's briefings to all interested companies in Japan as part of his role.

The Committee's Consideration

6. The Committee considered that as Mr Madden had only routine contact with NTT whilst he was in office; was not responsible for any policy, contractual or regulatory decisions specific to NTT, the risk that this appointment is a reward for actions taken in office is low.

7. The Committee considered the FCDO's views that Mr Madden would no longer have access to sensitive policy or commercial information. However Mr Madden may have been privy to information about Brexit negotiations from his time as role in office, and more general information about diplomatic affairs that could be seen to be of benefit to any company. The Committee considered the fast moving nature of the Brexit negotiations; we are now past the end of the transition period which ended on 1 January 2021. The trade deal negotiations with Japan were also concluded in September 2020. This means Mr Madden's stated start date will be a year after the conclusion of negotiations with Japan and 9 months after the end of the Brexit transition period. This means any advantage offered by Mr Madden's access to information about these negotiations will be significantly reduced. Nevertheless, the Committee would draw Mr Madden's attention to the privileged information ban below.

8. The Committee considered that Mr Madden's UK Government and diplomatic network could be seen to constitute an unfair advantage to NTT if improperly used. It noted that Mr Madden would not have contact with the Government in this role. However, it would therefore draw his attention to the restrictions below which make it clear he must not lobby the UK Government, or become involved in bids and contracts related to the UK Government in this role.

9. The Committee also considered that Mr Madden would have extensive contacts in other governments as a result of his time in Crown service. There is a risk that this may offer NTT an unfair advantage. He is expected to exercise his own discretion on probity when working with contacts he has gained as a result of his time in office in commercial organisations and other governments, however he must not lobby any such contacts for the purposes of securing business for NTT , as the conditions below make clear.

10. Taking into account the specific facts in this case, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises Madden 's work with **Nippon Telegraph and Telephone** be subject to the following conditions:

- a 6 month waiting period from his last day in post;
- He should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of himself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to him as a Crown Servant. In the context of this general provision, the Committee considers he should specifically avoid giving Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (including clients parent companies, subsidiaries and partners), privileged insight based on information from his time in Crown service into Brexit or Japan/UK free trade agreement related issues, insofar as it as it pertains to UK's negotiating strategy post its departure from the EU;
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government, on behalf of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients). Nor should he make use, directly or indirectly, of his government and/or Crown service contacts to influence policy, secure funding/business or otherwise unfairly benefit Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients);
- for two years from his last day in Crown service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying contacts he has developed during his time in office and in other Governments and organisations for the purpose of securing business for Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (including parent companies, subsidiaries and partners);
- for two years from his last day in crown service, he should not advise Nippon Telegraph and Telephone or its clients on work with regard to any policy he had specific involvement or responsibility for as British Ambassador to Japan at Foreign and Commonwealth Office, or where he had a relationship with the relevant client during his time as British Ambassador to Japan;
- for two years from his last day in office he should not advise Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (or its parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients) on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid or contract with, or relating directly to the work of the UK Government.

11. 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.

12. 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."

13. I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Madden takes up this position, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the Rules.

14. I should also be grateful if you would ask that Mr Madden inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

15. Once this commission 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

Sam Lynch
Committee Secretariat