

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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September 2013

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting the following appointments:

- a part-time paid appointment as Senior Advisor to Investec; and
- a part-time paid appointment as Senior Advisor to East End Foods PLC (EEF), working four days per year.

The Committee took into account that you did not have any direct official dealings with Investec and that your role will not include any lobbying of Government. It also noted that you had occasional contact with competitors, but this would have been normal incidental contact in the course of your Ministerial duties at meetings/receptions.

When considering your applications, the Committee noted that in your constituency work you had some contact with EEF, as they were interested in international development, and that you also visited their factory in 2008 when in Opposition. The Committee noted, however, that you did not have any dealings with competitors.

The Committee took into account that you did not have any contractual dealings with your prospective employers during your last two years in office. Furthermore, whilst in office, you were not involved in the development of any policy or decision that could have affected your prospective employers.

As the three-month waiting period usually observed by former Cabinet Ministers has expired, we see no reason why you should not accept these appointments forthwith subject to the conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of your new employers, or its clients.

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE,
Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman)
Sir Hugh Stevenson, General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: “Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted”.

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointments, or if it is announced that you 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 which have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your roles with EEF and Investec, as depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee’s advice on it and the date on which they were taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

Lord Lang of Monkton

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP