



## OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Ms Bronwyn Hill CBE  
Permanent Secretary  
Defra  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

11 June 2014

Dear Ms Hill

### **BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: IAN TRENHOLM**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Ian Trenholm, Chief Operating Officer at Defra. He is seeking permission for a full-time, paid appointment as Chief Executive of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

The Committee noted with great concern that NHSBT had announced this appointment before approval was sought and it was also reported in the Civil Service World newspaper. The Business Appointment Rules specify that approval from the Committee should be sought prior to the acceptance or announcement of new appointments. Whilst the Committee recognises that you may not be able to influence the timing of announcements made by other bodies, in order to help mitigate the risk of this recurring in the future may I suggest that you reinforce the message to your staff that approval should be sought from the Committee prior to the acceptance or announcement of new appointments.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that Mr Trenholm's Department had no relationship with NHSBT and that he has not had access to any information about related policy or commercially sensitive information about competitors. The Committee took into account that the post would involve dealings with Government in general, but noted that whilst at Defra Mr Trenholm has had no official contact with NHSBT or any contractual dealings with NHSBT during his last two years of employment, and was not responsible for anyone who did.

The Committee also took into consideration the views of Mr Trenholm's Department that there was no perceived conflict in this role.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved retrospectively, subject to the conditions that:

- Mr Trenholm should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant and
- for two years from his last day of service, Mr Trenholm should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of his new employer or its clients except for the purposes of carrying out his role as Chief Executive of NHS Blood and Transplant.

The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant 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".

As this appointment has already been announced, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Carrie Aitken  
Committee Secretariat