



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Mr Ian Watmore

9 September 2013

Dear Mr Watmore

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered your application for permission to accept a part-time, paid appointment as a Non-Executive Director and member of the Audit Committee for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), following your retirement from the Crown service on 30 June 2012.

The Committee noted that your appointment is likely to include occasional contact and/or dealings with your former Department/Government as you will be advising executive management on the public and private sector. The Committee also noted that you had occasional meetings with the Information Commissioner in your former role as Permanent Secretary.

When considering your application the Committee noted that you had had no contractual dealings with your prospective employer or access to any commercially sensitive information about any of your prospective employer's competitors. The Committee noted that, as Permanent Secretary for the Cabinet office, you advised on the transparency and open data policy although you confirm that you had no involvement in any regulatory work or the award of grants that could have affected your prospective employer. It also noted that, as you left Crown service over a year ago, the three-month waiting period usually observed by Permanent Secretaries (and above) has expired.

The Prime Minister has accepted the recommendation of the Committee that, the three-month waiting period for Permanent Secretaries (and above) having expired, your application be approved subject to the conditions that you should not draw on any

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

privileged information available to you whilst in Crown service and that, for two years from your last day of service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of your new employer or its clients. Lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules 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".

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as you take up this appointment, or if it is announced that you will do so (I enclose a form for convenience). 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 you had complied with the Rules. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with ICO as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, 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,



 Dean Ponder

Cc: David Bainger, Cabinet Office Human Resources