

*From the Chairman*



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part-time, paid appointment as a consultant with CNU Online Holdings LLC (ENOVA).

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that that you had no direct official dealings with the company in your ministerial capacity. Furthermore, you had no dealings with any competitors of the company during your last two years in office. The Committee also noted that you have not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors.

The Committee noted that your role with ENOVA will include providing advice on the effect of pending or planned legislation on ENOVA's business, strategic advice, and advice on political trends. The appointment may involve arranging meetings with MPs or Ministers and officials in HM Treasury or the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. However, the usual conditions that the Committee recommends around lobbying (as set out below) will continue to apply.

Taking into account all the circumstances, including the fact that it is now seven months since you left ministerial office, our advice is that we see no reason why you should not take up the appointment forthwith, subject to the following 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 office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of your new employers, their parent companies or their clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules 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 appointment, 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 role with ENOVA as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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.

Lord Lang of Monkton

Sir Gerald Howarth MP