

From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a part-time, unpaid appointment as Chairman of the Oversight Board for the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the University of Roehampton.

In reaching a decision on your application, the Committee noted that you did have dealings with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), as they are the largest specialist body and think tank on defence issues in the UK. You spoke regularly at their events and met members of their staff on an occasional basis whilst Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology. It was also noted that you had no dealings with the University of Roehampton, nor any competitors, during your last two years in office.

Our advice is that we see no reason why you should not take up the appointment subject to the following:

- you should not draw on any privileged information available to you from your time in Government; and
- you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of RUSI and the University of Roehampton, their parent companies or their clients for two years from your last day in office.

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".

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Colin Budd KCMG, Rt Hon Baroness Browning, Mary Jo Jacobi, Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, Sir Hugh Stevenson (Chairman), General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing this 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 RUSI and the University of Roehampton 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.

Sir Hugh Stevenson

Sir Peter Luff MP

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