

*From the Chairman*



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

G/5 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0842

Email: [acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://acoba.independent.gov.uk>

You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part-time (working two days per year), paid appointment as a member of a new Global Advisory Board with Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG).

The Committee noted that you had no official dealings with your proposed employer whilst in office. Furthermore, your proposed role will involve no lobbying of the UK Government.

The Committee noted that, in your Commercial Secretary role, you were involved in a broad range of policies that affect all UK companies, as well as inter-Government meetings with many countries. The Committee also noted that, whilst in Government, you had dealings with one of your prospective employer's competitors albeit in the broadest sense. You had one meeting with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (as you did with a number of major banks) and you did not have any access to commercially sensitive information as a result of that meeting. The Committee also took into account that you left office four months ago.

Taking into account all the circumstances, and noting that you will not be taking up the role until 1 July 2013, our advice is that we see no reason why you should not take up the appointment subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister;
- for 12 months from your last day in ministerial office, you should not provide advice to your new employer, or any clients, on the terms of any bid or contract directly relating to HM Treasury; 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 employer, its parent company or its 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 the MUFU, 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

The Rt. Hon The Lord Sassoon