

*From the Chairman*



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice on a part-time, unpaid role as Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Englefield Estate Trust Corporation Limited.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that you were formerly a Director of the Englefield Estate Trust. However, you resigned the position following your appointment as a Defra minister. The Committee further took into account that you did not have any direct official dealings with your prospective employer during your last two years in office. Furthermore, you did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors and you will not be required to lobby Government in your proposed role.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is content to approve the appointment subject to the following condition:

- 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 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 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

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change your role with the Englefield Estate Trust 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

Richard Benyon MP

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