



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Joanna Donaldson
Human Resources Director
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

18 November 2013

Dear Ms Donaldson,

BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: PROFESSOR SIR JOHN BEDDINGTON CMG FRS

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered two applications from Professor Sir John Beddington, the former Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), who is seeking permission to accept a part-time, paid appointment as Chairman of the Environment Advisory Board for Rolls Royce and a part-time, unpaid appointment as President to The Freshwater Biological Association (FBA). As you know, Sir John's last day in Crown service was on 31 March 2013. He hopes to take up the appointments in November 2013.

When considering the applications, the Committee noted that Sir John has not had any contractual dealings and he has not been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings with his prospective employer during his last two years of service. Furthermore, he has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors or been involved in the development or administration of any departmental policy or decisions that could have affected his prospective employer or its competitors.

The Committee took into account that Sir John had limited official dealings with Rolls Royce during his last two years of service (he chaired two meetings at which they were present - one the Government Panel on Future Nuclear Research in 2012 and the other on the Prime Ministers' Council for Science and Technology). In addition, the Committee acknowledged that in his role as GCSA he met a very wide range of companies and other organisations in

the natural course of his duties. However, the Committee took into account that Sir John's proposed role with Rolls-Royce was sought after he left Crown service. Furthermore the Committee noted his role with FBA is unpaid, working only two days per year.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that the applications be approved subject to the condition that for two years from his last day of service, Sir John should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employers or its clients. The Business Appointment Rules define lobbying 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 could ensure that we are informed as soon as Sir John takes up the appointments, or if it is announced that he will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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 he had complied with the rules.

Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role with Rolls Royce or FBA, as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him 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.

DEAN PONDER
COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT