



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Lin Homer
Chief Executive
HM Revenue & Customs

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Dear Ms Homer

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAVE HARTNETT

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Mr Dave Hartnett, the former Permanent Secretary for Tax at HMRC, who is seeking permission to accept a short term appointment (from 3-16 September 2013) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to provide the Russian Government with a review of how successful changes to the tax administration over the past three years have been. Mr Harnett retired from Crown service on 31 July 2012.

When considering this application, the Committee noted that the appointment is unlikely to include contact/dealings with Mr Harnett's former Department/Government and that he will be providing advisory services to the Russian Government only. The Committee took into account that Mr Harnett had had some official dealings with IMF over a number of years; however these were limited to presentations on tax administration and tax compliance. The Committee noted that he has had no contractual dealings and was not responsible for people who had contractual dealings with his prospective employer during his last two years of service. Furthermore, it took into account that he was not involved in the development or administration of any policy or decisions (including the award of grants) that could have affected his prospective employer or its competitors and he did not have access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors.

The Prime Minister has accepted the Committee's recommendation that this application be approved subject to the condition that, for two years from his last day of service, he should not draw on any privileged information available to him whilst in Crown service and he should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of his new employer 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 also be grateful if you could ensure that we are informed as soon as Mr Hartnett takes up the employment with IMF, 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.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C Millington".

Catherine Millington
Committee Secretariat