



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Ref: 1415/4C

Mrs J Church

2 July 2014

Dear Mrs Church

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANCY – NEW COMMISSION

The Committee has considered your request to accept a commission with PwC.

The Committee noted that whilst in office as a Special Adviser you had two meetings with PwC representatives. The first was a general catch up, where you were updated on their work developing higher level apprenticeships, and the second was a meeting with a PwC partner to discuss a policy idea that she was in the early stages of developing. At no point have you had any discussions with them about project funding, tax or any contractual matters relating to PwC and government.

The Committee considered the fact that your role with PwC would be a part-time (1.5 days per week), paid role. It will largely be focused on playing a supporting role in thought leadership work that they will be undertaking in the run up to the General Election. This will involve engaging with all political parties in their policy development process. It will also involve providing PwC with strategic advice on the wider policy and political environment in which they operate - identifying potential opportunities, developing ideas, and giving them strategic counsel on the perspectives and priorities of the coalition government.

The Committee noted that you have said that the role will not involve you lobbying ministers or government officials (including Special Advisers). You will not be seeking to influence the outcome of government decisions or legislation on behalf of PwC and you will not be drawing on privileged information made available to you as a Special Adviser.

The Committee therefore agrees that this Commission is permissible within the terms of your independent consultancy.

The conditions that apply to your independent consultancy are:

- you should not draw on privileged information available to you as a Special Adviser;
- for two years from your last day of service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer or its clients;
- for six months from your last day as a Special Adviser you should submit a fresh application for any commission you wish to accept with individuals, companies or organisations in policy areas within your remit as Special Adviser to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and
- once you have received approval to set up as an independent consultant, you must seek confirmation from the **Committee directly** that each individual commission is permissible under the terms of your consultancy before taking it up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a commission is, or may be, outside the terms of the consultancy you will be expected to submit a fresh application.

I would be grateful if you would let me know when you take up this commission, or if it is announced that you are to do so. This will enable the Committee to publish brief details on the regularly updated consolidated list on its website and in its next annual report. This letter may also be published (with relevant redaction of personal information).

Yours sincerely

Carrie Aitken
Committee Secretariat