

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2013

Present

Lord Lang (Chair)
Lord Dholakia
Ms Mary Jo Jacobi
Lord Macdonald
Sir Hugh Stevenson
Lord Walker (for item 2 onwards)

Secretariat

Clare Salters
Ekpe Attah (Secretary)
Rajvinder Bahia
Dean Ponder
Maggie O'Boyle

Case consideration

1. An applicant met the Committee to discuss the provisional recommendation on his case, after which the Committee agreed to seek the views of his former department again, before agreeing its final recommendation on the case.

Apologies

2. Apologies were received from Sir Colin Budd and Mark Addison.

Minutes of last meeting

3. The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 February 2013 were agreed.

Chairman's update

4. The Chairman introduced Dean Ponder, a new member of the Secretariat, who had joined the team in January. Beth Watson had now left the Secretariat and steps were being taken to fill the subsequent vacancy.
5. An unusually high number of new applications were still being received by the Committee. The Chairman thanked Members and the Secretariat for their continued hard work.
6. A former Minister had approached the Committee to seek clarification as to whether ex officio roles stemming from a business appointment recently cleared by the Committee would need fresh applications. The Chairman had agreed that, if the appointments were charitable and unpaid, new applications would not be necessary but they should still be notified to the Committee for approval. Joining a subsidiary company, however, was a different matter and would need to be judged according to the circumstances.

Update on potential changes to the Rules

7. The Committee discussed the Cabinet Office's emerging thinking on this issue, including the views of Permanent Secretaries, which the department had collated for the Committee's information.

UNCLASSIFIED

8. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Sue Gray in the Cabinet Office with the Committee's views.

Compliance update

9. The Committee noted the recent paper on the informal compliance assurance process and asked to be updated again when the Secretariat had completed more visits.

Communications

10. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

Freedom of Information

11. There were no new cases to report.

Any other business

12. The next meeting would be on 12 June at 2.30pm at 1 Horse Guards Road (the meeting was subsequently cancelled).

Committee Secretariat

April 2013