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OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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Martin Donnelly
Permanent Secretary
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H OET

21 July 2014

Dear Mr Donnelly

BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION: MRS TERA ALLAS

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has considered an application from Mrs Tera Allas, the former Director General for Strategic Advice at BIS. Mrs Allas is seeking permission to accept a part-time, paid appointment, as Senior Adviser to Vivid Economics Ltd (VE). Mrs Allas resigned from Crown service on 31 January 2014.

In their consideration of this application, the Committee noted that Mrs Allas as DG, Strategy, Analysis and Better regulation, led the Department's work on industrial strategy. This included a partnership strategy for the professional business service sector which could, in theory, have an impact on consultancies such as VE. As the Chair of the Programme Board for Industrial Strategy, her role was to ensure deliverables were produced on time and were consistent with the Industrial Strategy framework. The Committee noted that she did not have direct involvement in shaping or commenting on the content of the sector-specific strategies.

The Committee took into account that Mrs Allas has not had any contractual dealings, and has not been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings, with her prospective employer during her last two years of service. Furthermore, she has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors or been involved in regulatory work (including the award of grants) which could affect her prospective employer or its competitors.

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The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's recommendation that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- Mrs Allas should not draw on privileged information available to her as a Crown servant;
- for two years from her last day in Crown service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government, Ministers or Crown servants, including Special Advisers, on behalf of any of her employers/clients; and
- **for the same period, if her role changes with VE she must seek confirmation directly from the Committee directly that any projects she accepts that are within the policy remit of BIS are permissible under the terms of her appointment before taking them up. If, after enquiry, the Committee takes the view that a project is, or may be, outside the terms of the appointment she will be expected to submit a fresh application.**

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 Mrs Allas takes up the appointment. 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 she had complied with the rules.

Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change her role with VE as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Once the appointments have 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