



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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Julie Lewis  
HR Resourcing & Talent  
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
SW1H OET

February 2015

Dear Julie,

**Business Appointments Application – Sir John O’Reilly**

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir John O’Reilly, the former Director General of Knowledge and Innovation at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to set up an independent consultancy. His last day of Crown Service was 31 January 2015, following his resignation. He wishes to begin taking on commissions with the following clients as soon as possible:

- [REDACTED]
- Advisor to the Institute of Telecommunications for the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal;
- Member of External Review Panel (ERP) for Quality Assurance Framework for Universities (QUAF) with the Ministry of Education, Singapore;
- Advisory role and Board member of Agency for Science, Technology and Research (ASTAR), Singapore;
- Advisor to the Board and President of the University at Khalifa University, United Arab Emirates;
- Non-executive Director of The ERA Foundation Ltd;

The Committee noted that he has not had any direct contractual dealings with his prospective clients in his last two years of service, nor has he been responsible for people who have had contractual dealings with his prospective clients.

The Committee also took into account that he has not had any official contractual or non-contractual contact with his prospective clients. They also noted that he has not had access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors of his prospective clients during his official duties in office. The Committee note he has not been involved in the development or administration of any departmental policy or policy decisions that could affect his prospective clients or their competitors.

Furthermore, the Committee note that these commissions are fully supported by his former Department.

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

- that he should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant; and
- for two years from his last day of service, he should not become personally involved in lobbying\* the UK Government on behalf of his new employer or its client; and
- once he has received approval to set up as an independent consultant, for two years from his last day of service he must seek confirmation from the Committee directly that each individual commission is permissible under the terms of his 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, he will be expected to submit a fresh application.

\*Lobbying in this context means that the former Crown 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 send us a copy of your letter to Sir John informing him of the outcome of his application. Please also ensure that we are told when Sir John takes up these commissions or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that 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. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would ask that Sir John informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his roles with the organisations he is accepting commissions from as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely,

**Baljit Rayit**  
**Committee Secretariat**

