



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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June 2015

You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up appointments with Innasol Group Limited, [REDACTED] and Pont Street Capital, having left Government in July 2014.

Innasol Group Limited

When considering your application the Committee took into account the fact that Innasol is a distributor and developer of renewable heat technologies in the UK and Europe. This is a part-time, paid appointment for 1 day per week and you will be the Chairman of the International Advisory Board. You will provide strategic advice to the board regarding market opportunities for renewable heat technologies in the UK and abroad and thought leadership in this area.

The Committee noted that you stated that you would have encountered Innasol as part of wider stakeholder engagement when you were in office. You would have met a number of companies from this sector in the course of your ministerial duties. You are not aware of any relationship, either contractual or non-contractual between Innasol and your former departments.

[REDACTED]

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),
Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger,
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pont Street Capital

In considering this application, the Committee noted that you stated that you will be Director of this personal investment holding company which is a new company formed by you of which you are initially 100% shareholder. It will be a vehicle to hold investments and receive occasional fees associated with commercial development projects. You have confirmed that Pont Street Capital has no interest in or intention of getting involved in lobbying, now or in the future. You have estimated that this will be a part-time, 1 day per month appointment. It will have one employee.

The Committee noted that you stated that you do not yet have a list of potential or proposed clients for this company and that the primary purpose of the company is to be a personal investment holding company rather than an actively trading business.

The Committee also considered the views of your former departments.

The Committee noted with concern that you recently informed us that you have taken up three appointments for which you did not make formal applications to the Committee. These appointments are: Honorary President of the British Photovoltaic Association and unpaid trustee positions at the Climate Group and the De La Warr Pavilion. Although you did not believe that these applications needed to come before the Committee, the Committee would ask that you check this in future, as the appointments appear to be within the Committee's remit.

Whilst noting that the most senior private sector position that you held prior to entering the House of Commons was a role with an international energy company and that you only stood down from your last board position in the private equity sector in 2009, the Committee noted that [REDACTED] of the appointments it has considered and that you are taking up are related to the area for which you had ministerial responsibility. The Committee believes that this may give rise to negative perceptions of these appointments.

However, the Committee has considered these applications on their merits and, taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is content to approve these appointments, subject to the following conditions:

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),
Lord German OBE, Mary Jo Jacobi, Terence Jagger,
Rt Hon Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, John Wood

From the Chair

- Neither you nor your company Pont Street Capital should draw on or disclose privileged information available to you from your time in Government (including in your capacity as the Prime Minister's Envoy on Climate Change) and
- for two years from your last day in Ministerial office, neither you nor your company, Pont Street Capital, should become personally involved in lobbying UK Government on behalf of your new employer its parent companies or its clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way – "Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister 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 would inform us as soon as you take up the appointments, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your roles with Innasol Group Limited, [REDACTED] or Pont Street Capital as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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 applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon Gregory Barker

Members:

Mark Addison, Sir Alex Allan KCB, Baroness Browning (Chair),
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