



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting the [REDACTED] following appointments:

- Senior Non-Executive Director of Surrey Satellite Technologies Ltd (SSTL);
[REDACTED]
- Board Member of the National Council for Universities and Business (NCUB).

The Committee noted that SSTL is an organisation that delivers small satellite missions and is an independent British company within the Airbus Defence & Space group. You will advise on the company vision, strategy, business, ensure that the Board functions properly, complies with good governance requirements and helps with export missions. The Committee further noted that you did have official dealings with SSTL during your last two years in office in your capacity as Minister for Space, as they received funding from BIS via the UK Space Agency for satellite development. They also participate in a EU programme for Earth observation satellites and Galileo. The Committee further noted that there is a relationship between SSTL and BIS as they sit on the Space Leadership Council, which you used to chair. The Committee also took into account that you have not had official dealings with potential competitors of SSTL.



[REDACTED]

The Committee noted that NCUB is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes business and university collaboration. You will be joining NCUB as a Non-Executive Board Member. The Committee took into account that NCUB is affected by Government policy and is asked for advice by Government on promoting university/ business links. It further noted that you did have official dealings with NCUB whilst in office and that the organisation was previously called Council for Industry and Higher Education. The Committee has also taken into account that you are aware of a relationship between BIS and NCUB, as half of its funding derives from public bodies under BIS. The Committee took into account that you did not have official dealings with competitors of NCUB.

In addition, the Committee has taken into account the views of the Permanent Secretary at BIS and particularly his view that there should be a waiting period.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee is content to approve the appointments subject to the following conditions:

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as a Minister;
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of your new employers, their parent companies or clients. This lobbying ban covers all [REDACTED] appointments (SSTL [REDACTED] and NCUB) but it does not preclude contact with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) on operational trade missions overseas in relation to the SSTL appointment;
- there should be a waiting period of 12 months from your last day in Ministerial office in relation to the SSTL [REDACTED] appointments and these two appointments may not be taken up until 1 August 2015.

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 that 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 role with SSTL, [REDACTED] or NCUB, as depending on the circumstances, it might 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 application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning