

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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The Committee has considered your request to take up appointments with Belmond Ltd and Jewish Care.

Jewish Care

You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up an unpaid, part-time appointment with Jewish Care. Jewish Care is a charity that provides health and social welfare support services for vulnerable members of the Jewish community. The charity runs over 70 centres and employs over 1,500 staff and 3,000 volunteers.

Your role would be that of a Non-Executive Director on the board of Trustees. It would require a time commitment of around 1 day per month. The Committee took into account that you did not have any official dealings with Jewish Care while in ministerial office and also noted that this role will not require you to lobby government.

Belmond Ltd

You also asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a paid, part-time appointment with Belmond, a hotel and leisure company that operates hotels, train services and river cruises around the world.

You were headhunted for the position of Non-Executive Director and future chairman of their Audit Committee. It too, would require a time commitment of around 1 day per month. As with Jewish Care there was no interaction with Belmond in your time as Minister, although you did have some contact with a competitor of Belmond. However, the Committee took into account that this contact was through your involvement in a trade mission to China, and your assurance that no sensitive information had been exchanged on the visit.

Members:

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

From the Chair

Taking into account all of the circumstances, and having sought the opinion of your former departments, which did not have any concerns regarding the propriety of these appointments, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the appointments, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisations or persons to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you in your time as a Minister; and
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Jewish Care, Belmond, their parent companies, subsidiaries or clients.

By ‘privileged information’ we mean official information to which a Minister has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] 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 either of these 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 either of your roles 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 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

Lord Livingston of Parkhead

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