



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: THEA ROGERS

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Thea Rogers, the former Chief of Staff to the Chancellor. She has sought advice on taking up a role with Deliveroo.

Ms Rogers was the former Chancellor's chief of Staff from May 2015 to July 2016. Prior to that (January 2013 to April 2015) she was his Special Adviser, in charge of Strategic Communications, Events and Visits.

When considering this application the Committee noted that this would be a full-time, paid role working on communication and policy for Deliveroo. This would include overseeing all communications, both internal and external; designing company policy; and setting out structures and procedures within the company.

The Committee took into consideration that Ms Rogers had no official dealings with Deliveroo while in office. The Committee noted that whilst her role as adviser to the Chancellor involved some policy discussions, HMT confirmed she would not have had access to commercially sensitive information; and, that there had been no significant overlap between the policy areas she worked on and Deliveroo.

In accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee's advice to the Permanent Secretary is that the appointment should be subject to the following conditions:

- that she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- for two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Deliveroo or its clients.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant 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. (As with all Special Advisers, the Committee makes this recommendation on the understanding that, if she has not already done so, Ms Rogers must confirm in writing to

her department that she recognises that she continues to be bound by the provisions of the criminal law (including the Official Secrets Act), which protect certain categories of information, and by his duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown).

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying 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 [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 let us know whether the Permanent Secretary is content to approve this application in line with the Committee's recommendation, and copy us into the final decision. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Rogers takes up this role, or if it is announced that she will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). 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 Ms Rogers complied with the rules.

Once this appointment has been taken up or announced we will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website and include the main details, together with the Committee's advice, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Marshall
Committee Secretariat