



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

G/08 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

2 March 2017

**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: RICHARD CALVERT**

You asked the Committee to consider an application under the Business Appointment Rules on behalf of Richard Calvert, Director General of Strategy and Resources at the Department for Education. Mr Calvert's last day in Crown service was the 31st October 2016. His appointment as Chief Operating Officer for Sheffield Hallam University was announced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016, in a press release on their website.

First, I would like to register the Committee's concern that Mr Calvert's application was submitted after his appointment had been announced. The Government's Business Appointment Rules for former Crown servants specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. To fulfil the remit given to it by Government, the Committee needs to be able to consider an application fully and freely before offering its advice. It is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been announced and/or taken up. The Committee is therefore unwilling to give retrospective advice for this appointment.

However, the Committee would like to put in the public domain that:

1. Mr Calvert has informed the Committee that, in his role as Chief Operating Officer at Sheffield Hallam University, he will lead on professional services within the University.
2. The Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education had confirmed that Mr Calvert was not involved in taking decisions on higher education whilst he was at the Department.
3. Mr Calvert has confirmed he was appointed following an open application process.
4. Mr Calvert told the Committee that whilst the new role may involve some contact with higher education regulatory bodies (such as the new Office for Students), his role was unlikely to involve any contact that would amount to lobbying, or any other direct

engagement with his former department.

The Committee wishes to draw Mr Calvert's attention to the normal restrictions it imposes including: a two year lobbying ban, and the prohibition on using privileged information obtained while in public office.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Marshall  
Committee Secretariat