



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: DAME LOUISE CASEY DBE CB

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Dame Louise Casey, former Director General at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Appointment details

Dame Louise proposes to become a consultant to Crest Advisory (UK) Ltd, a small consultancy company operating in the police, criminal justice and local government field. She will take up projects to assist Crest on an "as and when" basis and not more than a few days per month. This will be a paid role. Crest will draw on her experience in assisting organisations review their work or stocktake their activity. Dame Louise was offered the position by the managing director, who is an old friend and work colleague.

Dame Louise has stated that the appointment is not likely to include any contact or dealings with Government.

Dame Louise told the Committee she had no official contact with Crest during her time in Government, contractual or otherwise. She also said that she had no official dealings with its competitors over her last two years in service and no access to commercially sensitive information about any competitors. This was confirmed by DCLG.

The Director General at DCLG who oversees the Local Government portfolio, sees no reason from a departmental point of view why Dame Louise should not accept this work, subject to the normal bar on lobbying.

Committee's consideration

There is a connection between the appointment and the sector Dame Louise worked in while in Government. However, in the circumstances of this case, the Committee concluded that the risks associated with the appointment are low and appropriate mitigations can be put in place.

There is no objective reason for the appointment to be perceived as a reward for decisions made while in office. Dame Louise had no official dealings with Crest or its competitors over her last two years in service and her work was generic to a wider sector than that covered by their practice. The Committee also noted that her most recent role in office culminated in The Casey Review, which has been published.

The Committee also considered the risk of unfair advantage presented by this application. Importantly, the Department has confirmed that while Dame Louise knows how both central and

local government work, she has no access to commercially sensitive information that could give Crest a competitive advantage. Given that Dame Louise has said that Crest will draw on her experience in assisting organisations review their work or stocktake their activity, it seems likely that they intend to draw on her generic experience and the Committee sees no impropriety in this respect. DCLG has noted that Dame Louise's network of personal contacts across many sectors existed before she worked for the department and considers the risk of these being used to secure some form of undue competitive advantage for Crest is low. However, the Committee considers it prudent to impose the conditions below to mitigate any residual risk that may remain.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- She should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service;
- for two years from her last day of service she should not provide advice to any company or organisation on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of, a bid or contract relating directly to the work of DCLG; and
- For two years from her last day in service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Crest Advisory (UK) Ltd or its clients, or make use, directly or indirectly, of her contacts in Government and/or Crown service to influence policy or secure business on their behalf.

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.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "*should not engage in communication with Government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a Government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office.*"

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Dame Louise takes up this position, 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 which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether she had complied with the rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Dame Louise informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Once the appointment has 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.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Richardson
Committee Secretariat