

Disclosures of interest: British Salt/ New Cheshire Salt Works

Members' interests

Paul Geroski, the Chairman of the Commission wishes to appoint Bruce Lyons, a member of the Commission, to the Group that is conducting this investigation.

Professor Lyons's wife is a member of the UK Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances, and in this capacity she is an employee of DEFRA (for a few days each year). She is also employed full time by World Wide Fund for Nature, which may have certain links with some chemical companies (either by sponsorship or in conflict). Her job as toxics policy advisor includes lobbying for better regulation of toxic chemicals. This is conducted at governmental, EU and intergovernmental levels where chemical industry associations are typically also represented.

Professor Lyons believes that he can discharge the obligations of a member of the Group investigating the British Salt Ltd and New Cheshire Salt Works inquiry independently and impartially. The Competition Commission believes that Professor Lyons's wife's current employment will not compromise the ability of the group to discharge its functions in an independent and impartial manner.

07 June 2005

Paul Geroski, the Chairman of the Commission wishes to appoint John Collings, a member of the Commission, to the Group that is conducting this investigation.

Dr Collings is a trustee of a charity (the Community Council of Devon) which receives funding from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Dr Collings's wife is a senior employee of an international executive recruitment firm, which serves clients across a wide range of industries. The firm is currently undertaking an assignment in the UK for a company which does not compete in the supply of salt in the UK but which is part of a larger group that includes another business which does so. Over the last two years the firm's offices outside the UK have also undertaken a small number of assignments for this company. The firm has an ongoing relationship with a major food manufacturer which is a customer for salt in the UK. Other customers for salt in the UK for whom the firm has undertaken assignments within the past two years are four companies involved in healthcare and one food manufacturer. Taken together, the firm's work for all these companies has not accounted for a significant proportion of its total fee income. Dr Collings's wife's area of specialisation is outside the sectors relevant to this inquiry. She is currently providing some support to one assignment for a company mentioned above but none of her own clients are players in the relevant sectors.

07 June 2005

Staff interests

Caroline Wallace, a member of staff who is Inquiry Director on this inquiry, is a former colleague (1998 – 2000) of a former shareholder of New Cheshire Salt Works Ltd. This

former shareholder is also related to a former executive director of that company. Caroline has had no contact with this person since 2000. Neither the CC nor Caroline believe that Caroline's former working relationship with this person will affect her ability to deliver independent and impartial advice to the Group conducting this inquiry. The CC believes that the Group will be able to determine this reference in an independent and impartial manner."

17 August 2005