

From the Office of the Minister



Department for the

Economy

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Mr Andrew McCormick
Permanent Secretary
Department for the Economy
1st Floor, Adelaide House
Belfast
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13 June 2016

Dear Andrew

Following my appointment as Minister for the Department for the Economy, I wish to appoint John Robinson to the post of special adviser effective from 6 June 2016.

With the job description and person specification in mind, I have consulted a number of stakeholders and assessed a range of potential candidates. At the end of this process, I am satisfied that John Robinson is by far the most qualified candidate available.

John Robinson worked as Director of Communications for the Democratic Unionist Party since May 2007 until present. During that time, Mr Robinson worked with media, legislators and civil servants in Stormont, Westminster and Brussels. Having advised Ministers in a range of Departments, Mr Robinson has an excellent understanding of the machinery of government.

John Robinson has experience in developing and communicating policy relating to tourism, energy, telecoms, higher education and business regulation. This experience will prove incredibly relevant to work within the Department for the Economy.

As the DUP Director of Communications, since 2007 Mr Robinson has been an integral part of each First Minister's team. John Robinson has previously provided professional communication advice for myself and other colleagues. Undoubtedly Mr Robinson's skills and experience will be highly valuable to me as Minister in this Department.

Schedule 2 paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers details the varied and complex role of a Special Adviser. John Robinson's experience and First Class academic record prove that he is extremely well qualified for the role of Special Adviser.

In terms of remuneration, I propose that John Robinson is appointed in Pay Band B at a salary of [REDACTED]

Personal information
redacted by the RHI
Inquiry

Yours sincerely

SIMON HAMILTON MLA

Received from DFE on 25/09/18
Annotated by RHI Inquiry