

The Labour Party

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Leader, Shadow First Secretary
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Lord Eric Pickles
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments
Room G/8
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Letter sent via email to:
acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Dear Lord Pickles,

I am writing to you following reports in the *Daily Telegraph* on Saturday 20 November 2021, regarding the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments findings about Philip Hammond and OakNorth bank.

In your letter to Lord Hammond on 31 August 2021 you state that the former Chancellor contacted an official in the Treasury on behalf of his current employers, OakNorth bank, after they had not received a reply from the Treasury regarding the use of a financial toolkit the bank thought might be helpful in the government's response to the pandemic.

In the same letter you set out you stated that this approach was not "in keeping with the letter or spirit of the Government's rules for the former chancellor to contact Her Majesty's Treasury on behalf of a bank which pays for his advice".

As a result of your finding you also contacted the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, then Michael Gove, and said it was "now a matter for you [the government] to decide what appropriate action to take".

The Telegraph article reports that, three months on, your committee has still not received a response from either the government or Sir Philip Hammond, and as such no action has been taken.

I am sure you would agree that this is an unacceptable delay. It is vital that once it has been established that rules have been broken, appropriate action should be taken, and taken as quickly as possible. In light of these reports and in the interest of transparency, please could you provide the following information:

- How many more cases are there where the committee is waiting for the government to respond to their inquiries?
- For each of the cases please indicate how long the committee has been waiting for a reply?

Thank you for your time and help with this matter

Kind Regards



Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Leader of the Labour Party
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