

The Labour Party

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

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

3rd December 2021

Dear Lord Pickles,

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention the Register of Members Interests. In the register Conservative MP Steve Brine has highlighted, in his declaration of his £200 an hour role with Sigma Pharmaceuticals, that he "consulted ACoBA about this appointment". I am unable to find a decision notice from ACoBA approving his acceptance of this role within your well-kept public record.

Mr. Brine served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care from June 2017 to March 2019 which means that he must seek advice from your Committee about this role and await a decision from you before he could accept this role. It does not seem to me that he has done this, which is made even more troubling as Sigma Pharmaceuticals won a £100,000 government contract and were able to hold a private audience with the Vaccine Minister at the time.

It would be incredibly helpful if you are able to clarify the Business Appointment rules relating to this:

- Did Mr. Brine seek ACoBA advice before accepting this role, as is the requirement according to the rules?
- Is the entry into the Register by Mr. Brine an accurate reflection of his correspondence with the Committee?
- Will you be considering referring this to the Cabinet Office as a breach of the rules?

I know you take your role incredibly seriously, and the function of the Committee is an incredibly important one. It is worrying if MPs and former Ministers are making quite such a mockery of the system.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Deputy Leader of the Labour Party

