



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up a part-time, unpaid appointment with the Teacher Development Trust (TDT). TDT is an independent charity, founded by teachers. It aims to improve the educational outcomes of children by ensuring they experience the most effective learning.

Your role would involve being a trustee and the appointment will be part-time, unpaid and working around two days per year.

When considering this application, the Committee took into account that, while in ministerial office, you approved the appointment of the CEO of TDT as chair of the Teachers' Professional Development Expert Group, which included a low value contract with TDT in recompense for his time. However, DfE have confirmed that the appointment was a natural fit given the appointees expertise in the area of teachers' professional development and there were clear grounds for the contract with TDT. The department believes that any interaction between DfE and TDT was limited and clearly justified, and they therefore have no propriety concerns.

The Committee also took into account the fact that you left ministerial office seven months ago and the Cabinet Office also confirmed that they have no propriety concerns regarding this application.

The Committee took note of the fact that this will be an unpaid position as a trustee. Should the role change in the future, as with all applicants, you will be expected to inform the Committee as, depending on the circumstances, you may need to submit a fresh application.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time as a Minister; and

- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the TDT or its partners.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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.

Also, it might be helpful if I add that the Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former Ministers "should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted".

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up this work, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. 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. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code.

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.

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon David Laws