

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/7 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

October 2016

You asked for the Committee's advice about registering with the London Speaker Bureau and Chartwell Speakers.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that you had no dealings with either agency while in office and there will be no contact involved with your former department or government more generally. The Committee consulted the Ministry of Justice, which had no concerns about you registering with these agencies and taking up employment as a speaker.

The Committee also took into account that the standard minimum three-month waiting period for outside appointments, which applies to former Cabinet Ministers, has now expired.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not register with these agencies, subject to the following conditions:

- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the London Speaker Bureau, Chartwell Speakers, or their clients.

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 register with the London Speaker Bureau and Chartwell Speakers, 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 that

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 these appointment have 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.

The Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP