



**THE CABINET OFFICE**  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

Prime Minister

3 March 2020

*For Prime Minister,*

As you are aware, a former Special Adviser has begun legal proceedings against the Government in relation to their dismissal.

The individual has not accepted the settlement offer made. You have indicated that we should not make further efforts to seek to settle the potential claim.

As Accounting Officer, it is my responsibility to ensure that spending of public money meets the requirements of Managing Public Money which includes ensuring value for money. Given the ongoing expenditure of defending the case and the potential costs that a court may award, it is my advice, taking account of legal and financial analysis that a further negotiation should be carried out to seek to avoid litigation.

But it is perfectly legitimate for you as a Minister to bring other considerations to bear beyond solely value money considerations. In the event you feel it is right course of action, I request your written instruction that this is how you wish to proceed.

I will copy this letter and your response to the Treasury Officer of Accounts and to the Comptroller and Auditor General at the NAO, and it may be made public by the Public Accounts Committee. Given the potential prejudice to the outcome any future litigation and the requirements of confidentiality concerning legal advice I will request that this correspondence and any reply from yourself remain confidential until any litigation has concluded.

*For*

*John Manzoni*  
**Sir John A Manzoni KCB**

Chief Executive of the Civil Service & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary  
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