



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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George Freeman MP
House of Commons
London
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23 November 2020

Dear Mr Freeman

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (the Committee). It has been brought to our attention, through a media enquiry that you had updated your register of interests.

There is an entry dated 1 June 2020¹, though registered in October, declaring that you received £5,000 for technology consulting with Aerosol Shield Ltd. The entry describes this company as a group of clinicians and medical technology specialists working on the problem of cross contamination during the Covid-19 Pandemic. You have not sought the advice of the Committee on this role, which you are required to do on any appointments or employment you seek to take up within two years of leaving office.

The Rules exist to protect the integrity of government and the Rules state retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. You appear to be in breach of the Rules and the Committee require an explanation as to why you failed to seek their advice; and any steps you have taken to ensure the probity in this work, given your previous role as a government minister.

In line with our policy of transparency, we will be publishing our correspondence in due course. I would be grateful for a reply to this letter before Wednesday 2 December 2020, your correspondence or any failure to respond will be included in our publication.

I would also take this opportunity to remind you to seek advice for any new appointment or employment you plan to take up within two years of leaving office, as set out above.

¹ There is also an entry with regard to The Big Tent Ideas Festival. However the register notes you had been doing work over several years. As this was not a new appointment or employment you took up after leaving ministerial office, this does not appear to require an application to the Committee.

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

Mr George Freeman MP