



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

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

Alex Chisholm
Permanent Secretary and Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

19 March 2021

Dear Mr Chisholm

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 Bill Crothers, the former Government Chief Commercial Officer at the Cabinet Office took on a role with Greensill, as a Director. This appears to be confirmed online here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/08126173/officers>

The Committee has not received an application for advice under the Government's Business Appointments Rules from Mr Crothers which he is required to seek for any appointments or employment he wishes to take up within two years of leaving office. This is perhaps surprising since Mr Crothers made applications, and received advice, on several other appointments he took up after leaving office: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crothers-bill-government-chief-commercial-officer-cabinet-office-acoba-recommendation>.

As you are aware, the Government's Business Appointment Rules exist to protect the integrity of government and the Rules state retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. It appears Mr Crothers may be in breach of these Rules in this case. Please can you investigate this matter, as any application from Mr Crothers would initially have come to the Cabinet Office for its recommendations, before coming to the Committee for advice.

I am copying this letter to the HR contact at the Cabinet Office and the Propriety and Ethics Team for information.

In line with the Committee's policy of transparency, we will be publishing correspondence on this matter in due course. I would be grateful for a reply to this letter before Monday 29 March 2021.

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

Alex Chisolm

CC: HR, Cabinet Office and the Propriety and Ethics Team, Cabinet Office.