



**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](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

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

Bill Crothers  
By email:

29 March 2021

Dear Mr Crothers

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (the Committee). I understand my team has made you aware of the correspondence sent to the Cabinet Office last week (enclosed for information). The Department has asked for more time to respond. Having confirmed your contact details with my office; and as this matter is becoming more pressing, I wanted to ask you the same questions raised with the Cabinet Office.

We have received a number of enquiries from the media about your role with Greensill. According to these records, you took up this post in August 2016: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/08126173/officers>

Our records show that you left your role as the Government Chief Commercial Officer at the Cabinet Office in November 2015. You were required to seek advice for any appointments or employment you took up within two years of leaving office under the Government's Business Appointments Rules. The Committee has not received from you an application for advice in relation to Greensill.

This is surprising, knowing that you sought and received advice on several other appointments after leaving office, which are on the website here: <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. It appears you may be in breach of these Rules. I am writing to understand the circumstances behind your failure to seek advice; and to provide you with an opportunity to tell us about any steps you took to ensure the probity in this appointment, given your previous role as the Government Chief Commercial Officer.

In line with the Committee's policy of transparency, we will be publishing correspondence on this matter in due course.

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

Bill Crothers