



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Cabinet Office

15 April 2021

Dear Michael,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (the Committee) to bring to your attention a breach of the Government's Business Appointment Rules (the Rules). This is outlined in the correspondence I and the Committee have exchanged with Bill Crothers enclosed.

The Rules are set by the Government, with the policy owned by the Cabinet Office. The Committee is independent, with a remit to consider applications received under those Rules, consider the risks and advise on the conditions that should apply.

Mr Crothers himself brought to the Committee's attention this failure to follow the Rules in relation to an unpaid role in 2016. Failure to seek advice is a breach of the Government's Rules and the requirement set out in the Civil Service Management Code. It is the Committee's policy to act transparently, including making public any failure to follow the Rules that it is made aware of. It is now a matter for you to decide what appropriate action to take.

*Yours ever
Sirie Pickles*

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

Copied to: Darren Tierney, Director of Propriety and Ethics, Cabinet Office and Chloe
Chloe Smith MP, Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution.