



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

21 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 number of breaches of the government's Business Appointment Rules (the Rules). This is outlined in the correspondence I and the Committee have exchanged with George Freeman, 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.

The Committee advised George Freeman in December 2020 that he was in breach of the Government's Rules for failing to seek advice in relation to work with Aerosol Shield Ltd. The Committee asked him to tell us about any other work he has been involved in, that he had failed to seek advice for. He informed us of a number of other roles with: Ryse Hydrogen, Resume Foundation, Reform for Resilience and Haemcro.

The failure to seek advice is a breach of the Government's Rules and the requirement as set out in the Ministerial Code. Ministers and officials are written to on leaving public service to remind them of the requirement to seek advice.

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
Eric Pickles

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

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