

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about registering with the Washington Speakers Bureau, a major US speaking agency. You intend to give speeches on the current political environment.

The Committee noted that you anticipate that registering with the agency will result in one or two day's work per month and that you will personally approve any engagement to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that you had no dealings with the Washington Speakers Bureau while in office and there will be no contact involved with your former department or government more generally. The Committee consulted HM Treasury, which had no concerns about you registering with the Washington Speakers Bureau and taking up employment as a speaker.

The Committee also took into account that, as a former Cabinet Minister, you are subject to a standard three-month waiting period before taking up any outside appointment.

The Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- A three-month waiting period from your last day in Ministerial office;
- You should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time as a Minister and;
- For two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Washington Speakers Bureau or its clients.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that former

Ministers should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted.

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you register with the Washington Speakers Bureau, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Ministerial Code.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

The Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon George Osborne MP