

*From the Chair*



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part time appointment as a member of the Advisory Board of the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, a new organisation being constituted as a charity, which will conduct research and develop policy proposals to improve the lives of those with mental health conditions and financial problems.

The Committee noted that this is an unpaid appointment and that 10 months have passed since you left ministerial office. The Committee also sought the opinion of your former department, which did not have any concerns regarding the propriety of this appointment, and noted that the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute was not established until after you left office.

Taking into account the all the facts, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- That you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you as a Minister; and
- For two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

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 take up the appointment, 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. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute as, depending on the circumstances, it might be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

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

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP