

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 contract to host a weekly 30-minute radio talk show on LBC.

The Committee noted that you had hosted the talk show on an ad hoc basis but that you have now been offered a contract to host a weekly programme.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that the Permanent Secretary in the Scottish Government had no concerns about this appointment.

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

- that you should not draw on any privileged information available to you as First Minister; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the Scottish Government on behalf of LBC or its parent company, Global Radio plc.

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 LBC 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 applications, 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 Alex Salmond MP