



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

G/8 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

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You asked for the Committee's advice about an unpaid appointment as a Trustee of the Human Trafficking Foundation (HTF), a UK-based charity which grew out of the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking.

When considering this application the Committee noted that in this role you will be asked to attend about four meetings a year and prepare Parliamentary Questions from time to time. You may also speak in debates on human trafficking and sponsor relevant events.

The Committee took into account that you became aware of HTF while Victims Minister in the Ministry of Justice. However, both you and the MoJ have confirmed that there is no relationship between the department and HTF. Neither MoJ nor DCMS, your two former departments, have any concerns with you taking up this role.

The Committee also noted that this is an unpaid appointment with a charity that aims to fight modern day slavery and human trafficking, and which works closely with the Foreign and Home Offices.

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

- 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 ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Human Trafficking Foundation.

The Committee notes that these conditions do not apply to your activities in Parliament, which are subject to other rules.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister 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 which 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 as, depending on the circumstances, it may 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

Helen Grant MP