

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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May 2015

You asked for the Committee's advice on accepting a paid appointment as a speaker with Specialist Speakers.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account the fact that you did not have any official dealings with Specialist Speakers while in ministerial office, nor are you aware of any relationship between the organisation and either of your former departments.

The Committee noted that neither of your former departments had any concerns about this appointment.

We therefore see no reason why you should not accept this appointment subject to the following conditions:

- you should not draw on any privileged information available to you from your time in Government; 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 Specialist Speakers or its clients.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former Minister should not engage in communication with Government – including Ministers, special advisers and officials – with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy 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 this appointment or, if earlier, when it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by

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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.

Once an appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will include the main details, together with the Advisory Committee's advice on it and the date on which it was taken up, in both the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in our annual report.

Baroness Browning

The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi