

*From the Chair*



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

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You asked for the Committee to consider a retrospective application about your role as an Associate with Global Partners Governance (GPG), a company working to strengthen political institutions and improve the quality of political representation around the world.

First, I would like to register the Committee's concern that your application was submitted some time after you had accepted and taken up the appointment, prompted by media coverage referring to the role, and that the business appointment rules for former ministers specify that retrospective applications are not normally accepted. You have apologised to the Committee unreservedly for the oversight on your part. However, to fulfil the remit given to it by Government the Committee needs to be able to consider an application fully and freely before offering our advice. It is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been taken up. Therefore, the Committee is unwilling to give retrospective approval for this appointment.

The Committee would however formally record that:

1. You have informed the Committee that your role is as an Associate with GPG, and involves working on an ad hoc basis with their Iraq Team.
2. You have informed the Committee that you had no contact with GPG, any of its competitors, or the sector in which it operates during your last two years in ministerial office.
3. You have assured the Committee that your role does not involve any lobbying of Government.
4. The Committee has been informed that your former department has no commercial relationship with GPG.

The Committee would also draw your attention to the normal restriction it imposes prohibiting the misuse of privileged information obtained while in public office.

*From the Chair*

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon the Lord Foster of Bath