

*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, paid appointment with the Confederation of Passenger Transport, a trade association for the bus and coach industry.

The Committee noted that you had been offered a role as an advisor, providing political advice on the background of the UK political scene and specific advice on likely transport and infrastructure policy and policy trends. It also noted that you acted in a similar capacity for the Confederation of Passenger Transport between 2010 and 2012 prior to joining the Government.

When considering your application, the Committee took into account that eighteen months have lapsed since you left your position as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport in July 2014. It also noted that you did not have ministerial responsibility for bus and coach policy.

The Committee noted that whilst the Confederation of Passenger Transport lobbies government in the interests of its members, it is clear from your application that the role you are seeking to take up is in an advisory capacity. However, given your previous Ministerial position at the Department for Transport, the Committee would like to draw your attention to the ban on lobbying and drawing on privileged information set out below.

Taking into account all the circumstances, the Committee sees no reason why you should not take up the 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 your new employer or its members.

It might be helpful if I add that 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 with the Confederation of Passenger Transport, 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 applications, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Baroness Browning

Stephen Hammond MP