

From the Chair



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting an appointment with Finito Education Limited (Finito) as a member of the Advisory Board.

Finito is an education provider, delivering programmes and courses to help first time job hunters identify their career direction and prepare for business life.

The Committee noted the founder of the company offered you this role, having met through the Conservative Party. The appointment is a paid, part-time role, involving around 12 days a year. The post will involve being an ambassador for Finito, providing occasional strategic advice, writing opinion and social media articles, and attending the annual Advisory Board dinner; some seminars; conferences; and other speaking events. You also expect to offer mentoring to students wishing to take up a career in politics.

The Committee noted that the role would not involve dealings with Government and that you had no official dealings with them or any of their competitors whilst in office.

In considering this application, the Committee also noted that three months has passed since your last day as Secretary of State for Education.

The Committee also sought the views of the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Education, who has no concerns about the appointment and is content for it to be taken up.

Taking into account the specific facts in this case, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises the appointment be subject to the following conditions':

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in ministerial office; and
- for two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not become personally involved in lobbying the Government on behalf of Finito Education Limited (or its partners), or make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government and/ or Crown service to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of Finito Education Limited and its partners.

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 this appointment, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the address on the front of this letter. 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 Finito, as depending on the circumstances, it might be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once this 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

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP