

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 as a Senior Adviser to the law firm DWF LLP. The role with DWF LLP will see you providing advice on Communications and strategy to clients and management.

The Committee noted that you left office as the Government Chief Whip in July 2016, and that 18 months has passed since your last day in office as Minister for Disabled People.

When considering your application the Committee took into account that the role is paid and will require a time commitment of around 2.5 days per month. The Committee noted that DWF LLP has an existing relationship with your former department (as Minister for Disabled People), however they were reassured that you had no official dealings with DWF LLP, or their competitors, in the last two years. In addition, they took into account the views of the Cabinet Office and the Department for Work and Pensions who had no proprietary concerns about you taking up the role.

Taking into account these factors, 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 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 Government on behalf of DWF LLP.

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 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 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 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 this 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

Rt Hon Mark Harper MP