



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about a new appointment as a Member of the Board of Directors at ONE.

The Committee's remit

As you know, it is the Committee's role to advise on any conditions that should apply to appointments or employment under the Government's Business Appointments Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules), which apply to former Ministers for two years after they leave office.

The Rules seek to counter suspicion that:

- a) the decisions and statements of a serving Minister might be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation; or
- b) an employer could make improper use of official information to which a former Minister has had access; or
- c) there may be cause for concern about the appointment in some other particular respect.

When the Committee considers applications it must have in mind that Government has judged that it is in the public interest that former Ministers with experience in Government should be able to move into business or into other areas of public life, and to be able to start a new career or resume a former one. It is equally important that when a former Minister takes up a particular appointment or employment, there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety.

The Committee has now considered your application, as set out below;

**Member of the Board of Directors at The ONE Campaign and ONE Action (collectively known as 'ONE')**

The Committee noted that ONE is made up of two entities, The ONE Campaign and ONE Action. Both are US, not-for-profit organisations, with the former organised as a charity, and the latter as a social welfare organisation.

Collectively, ONE is a campaigning and advocacy organisation of nearly eight million people around the world which aims to end extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in

Africa. ONE describes itself as nonpartisan and *'lobbies political leaders and campaigning at grassroots level'*, and *'pressures governments to do more to fight AIDS and other preventable, treatable diseases in the poorest places on the planet, to empower small-holder farmers, to expand access to energy, and to combat corruption so governments are accountable to their citizens.'*

When considering the application, the Committee also considered the following:

- As a Member of the Board of Directors at ONE, the role will be unpaid, part-time, and require a time commitment of ten days each year.
- You said your role will be to advise on the strategic direction of the organisation. You also noted you would act as a spokesperson for ONE a handful of times each year, which may include speaking at events, joining key strategic meetings and press involvement for the organisations. In addition, you expect to perform other typical board duties such as approving committee appointments.
- As you are the former Prime Minister, information was sought on your application from the Cabinet Office. You stated that you had official dealings with ONE whilst in office and the Cabinet Office told the Committee that various issues were discussed, including the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG). (The SDG's bring together Governments, businesses and civil society, with the UN, to improve the lives of people everywhere by working towards 17 broad goals.)
- The Cabinet Office also confirmed that the Government has an ongoing relationship with ONE, *"as one of the many development/aid advocacy organisations, mainly delivered through the Department for International Development."*
- The Cabinet Office said they have no knowledge of any commercially sensitive information that could give ONE an unfair advantage; and they raised no concerns about you taking up this this appointment.
- Whilst it is likely you will have contact with Government as a result of its ongoing relationship with ONE, you have undertaken that this will not involve lobbying Government on behalf of ONE.

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 any privileged information available to you as Prime Minister;
- for two years from your last day in service, you should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of The ONE Campaign and ONE Action, or their partners. This is not intended to prevent you from reporting to Government on the activities of The ONE Campaign and ONE Action, or from advising the UK Government in relation to development or humanitarian issues when the UK Government has asked for such advice. However, it would prevent you from making use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of The ONE Campaign and ONE Action, and their partners.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant 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, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister *"should not engage in communication with Government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a Government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office."*

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up employment with this organisation, 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 that have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had complied with the Rules and the Ministerial Code.

Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.

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

The Right Honourable David Cameron