



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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August 2017

You asked for the Committee's advice about a new appointment as a Trustee at Transformation Trust.

The Committee's remit

As you are aware, 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.

Appointment details

You stated that your role as a Trustee at Transformation Trust will be unpaid and part-time. You will be part of the Board of Trustees, whose role it is to approve the charity's strategy

and budget; monitor performance against its stated charitable purposes and strategic objectives; and ensure compliance with all appropriate legislation and regulations as they apply to a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

Funded through the support of the private sector, Transformation Trust is an education charity, which aims to provide opportunities to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It works with pupils from challenged schools and through various projects, offers the pupils the chance to develop employability skills.

You stated that your role is unlikely to include contact with Government; that you have no sensitive information which could benefit the charity; and that you had no previous official dealings with Transformation Trust during your time in Ministerial office.

Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary, John Manzoni, was contacted regarding this application. He confirmed that Government does have a relationship with Transformation Trust, who work with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Health. However, he confirmed you had no relevant responsibilities or relationships with the charity in your capacity as Leader of the House of Lords. Mr Manzoni has no concerns about this appointment.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee noted that this is an unpaid role with a charity and that you had no official contact with the organisation whilst in office. It also noted the Cabinet Office's views about this appointment. As a result, the Committee considered there is little risk that this appointment could reasonably be seen as a reward for decisions you made whilst in office.

While you confirmed you do not plan to have any contact with Government as part of your role, the Committee noted there is currently a relationship between Transformation Trust and Government. Further, there is the potential that Transformation Trust could seek government related funding at some point in the future. Therefore, the lobbying ban imposed makes clear that any use of contacts made whilst in office to influence policy or secure funding would be inappropriate.

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

- you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in Ministerial office; 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 Transformation Trust or its partners. You should not make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in Government to influence policy or secure funding on behalf of Transformation Trust or its 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 Transformation Trust, 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 Honorable Baroness Tina Stowell MBE

