



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

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You asked for the Committee's advice about taking up an appointment as a Non-Executive Chairman at Pathway Risk Management Ltd (Pathway).

The Committee's remit

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.

Committee's consideration

First, I would like to register the Committee's concern that you sought advice on this appointment after you had taken up the appointment. The Government's Business Appointment Rules for former Ministers specify that retrospective applications will not normally be accepted. To fulfil the remit given to it by Government, the Committee needs to be able to consider an application fully and freely before offering its advice. It is impossible to do this in a way that will command public confidence if an appointment has already been

announced and/or taken up. The Committee is therefore unwilling to give retrospective advice for this appointment.

However, the Committee would like to put in the public domain that:

- Pathway is a company which provides counter terrorist and related services for organisations responsible for crowded events and spaces.
- You told the Committee this is a paid, part-time role, in which you will provide strategic direction and accountability; chair meetings; provide contacts in a range of areas; and assist with media communications. You noted this role will not include any contact with the MOD.
- You stated you had no contact with Pathway during your last two years in office; that you had no contractual dealings with the company or its competitors; and had no access to any commercially sensitive information.
- You also noted that as an MP, you had *“discussions and briefings on security issues from a range of experts and through a range of fora. This occurred at a national level and sometimes at a regional or constituency level (via Kent Police).”*

Nonetheless, the Committee would draw your attention to the normal restriction it would impose prohibiting the misuse of privileged information obtained while in public office. The Committee notes that you do not expect to have contact with the MOD in this role. The Committee would also expect you to refrain from making use, directly or indirectly, of privileged access derived from your role as a Minister, to influence government policy or secure business, on behalf of Pathway.

The Committee would also remind you that advice should be sought on **all** appointments, paid or unpaid, before they are taken up or announced.

We will publish this letter on the Advisory Committee's website, and include the main details in both the regularly consolidated list on the website and in the next annual report.

The Baroness Browning

Sir Julian Brazier TD