



The Rt Hon Lord Pickles
Chair, Advisory Committee on Business Appointments
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

17 November 2020

Dear Lord Pickles

I am writing in response to your letter of 6 November drawing to my attention your recent correspondence with Carwyn Jones MS in relation to his appointment within GFG Alliance.

I note the Committee's view that Carwyn Jones has not followed its advice in respect of attendance at the GFG Global Advisory Board. I note also that Mr Jones argues that he has complied with the Committee's advice by ensuring that his only role in relation to that Board, until the expiry of the two year period after leaving office, will be to represent SIMEC, along with advisers from other GFG businesses.

I have reflected on the arguments made in the correspondence. Since leaving office Mr Jones has been careful to refer to the Committee any appointments which he is considering taking up, as required by the Ministerial Code, and has responded positively to the Committee's advice. In the present case, I think the important principle is that, for the two years since leaving office, Mr Jones should not be in a position where any privileged information he might have attained as First Minister could be, or perceived to be, used to benefit GFG Alliance.

I have discussed with Mr Jones and he has given me his assurance, as he has done to the Committee, that there are sufficient safeguards in place to prevent this happening, and that he regards it as his duty under the Ministerial Code to ensure that there is no improper advantage gained by GFG from his appointment. On this basis, I do not feel that any action by me is necessary.

Yours sincerely

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.