



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

4 March 2020

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 3 March setting out your request for a direction to not enter into further negotiations in respect of the potential legal claim.

I understand your concerns as expressed concerning the value for money of contesting the claim without further attempts at settlement, however as you have correctly stated I am able to take into account wider considerations than value for money. The legal position is clear that the Prime Minister can withdraw consent for the appointment of any Special Adviser. That is the reason for the termination of employment and I am content for a reasons letter to be issued to the individual setting that out. I do not believe that individuals should receive more compensation than they are entitled to under their contract and therefore I believe that this claim should be tested in litigation.

Therefore, I instruct that no further offer should be made to attempt settlement in advance of any potential litigation.

I am content this letter will be shared with the Treasury Officer of Accounts and to the Comptroller and Auditor General at the NAO, and agree that that this correspondence should remain confidential until the conclusion of any litigation.

Yours sincerely

Sir John Alexander Manzoni KCB