



CABINET OFFICE

Alex Chisholm
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

Rt Hon Lord Pickles
Chair, Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

27 April 2021

Dear Lord Pickles,

Thank you for your response to my letter dated 12 April.

The Cabinet Secretary has written to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee setting out the framework for management of any relevant outside interests for Civil Servants. I attach a copy of that letter. He also has given evidence to that Committee yesterday.

In relation to the process surrounding Mr Crothers' role outside of government, the Civil Service Management Code sets out, at paragraph 4.3.4, the requirement that civil servants must seek permission before accepting any outside employment which might affect their work either directly or indirectly. The applicable principles are those set out in the Business Appointment Rules. The Civil Service Management Code is published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-servants-terms-and-conditions>. Where the civil servant is a member of the departmental board any outside employment, as well as other relevant interests will be published as part of the Annual Report and Accounts or other transparency publication.

The Cabinet Office has passed all relevant material regarding Mr Crothers' role outside of government to Mr Boardman. He also has a copy of your letter of 13 April and can consider the questions you raise there.

Mr Boardman's review will look at this process and the decision making within the Cabinet Office. The terms of reference for Mr Boardman's review explicitly include this issue at 5 c. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-into-the-development-and-use-of-supply-chain-finance-in-government-terms-of-reference>

Yours sincerely,

Alex Chisholm
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary