



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

020 7210 4850

28 May 2021

Prime Minister,

Your Independent Adviser Lord Geidt discussed my declaration of interests with me and informed me of the advice he proposed to provide you.

I am grateful to Lord Geidt for noting that my shareholding in the company in question was declared properly and diligently. I want to make it clear to you that my goal has always been to act properly and honestly in these matters, and I am glad Lord Geidt agrees. I took the advice of my Permanent Secretary in all these matters and I have always sought to act within the Ministerial Code, including in this instance.

Lord Geidt's assessment appears to be that I should have declared an interest following the placement of the company that my sister and her husband own on a procurement framework by NHS Shared Business Services. At that point, in February 2019, I had no involvement in, interest in, ownership of, or anything else to do with the company. I did not know about the framework decision, and so I do not think I could reasonably have been expected to declare it. Nor can I see how a conflict of interest can arise on a matter about which I had no knowledge. For the record I still have no active participation in the company and I am also not, and have never been, involved in any of NHS SBS's decisions or activities.

I therefore agree with Lord Geidt that any perceived breach could only be technical in nature, because it is simply not possible to declare something I did not know. Though of course I understand and agree that the Ministerial Code is designed to ensure that there is no appearance of any conflict of interest and accept his advice.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK