



Lord True CBE  
Minister of State

Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles  
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments  
G/08 Ground Floor  
1 Horse Guards Road  
SW1A 2HQ  
By email: [acoba@acoba.gov.uk](mailto:acoba@acoba.gov.uk)

Our reference: MC2021/08594

07 May 2021

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your letter of 15 April; this relates to Bill Crothers's appointment as an unpaid Trustee on the Global Board of Trustees of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), rather than the broader issues of Greensill Capital.

I agree that Mr Crothers breached the Government's Business Appointment Rules in relation to the appointment as an unpaid Trustee in 2016. From the correspondence, I can see that Mr Crothers brought this to the Committee's attention himself, and he has apologised for his mistake.

It is vital that all crown servants abide by the requirements, which for Mr Crothers has an obligation arising from his employment contract.

Due to the passage of time; the fact that Mr Crothers has ceased to hold the role; the nature of the unpaid role in a not-for-profit organisation; and the fact that Mr Crothers referred himself to the Committee, on balance, the Cabinet Office does not consider that further action is necessary, over and above the justified critical comment on the record from your Committee. Current and future employers, as well as the public can take this into account should they consider it relevant.

As you are aware, the Cabinet Office is working with your Committee to improve the operation and efficacy of the Business Appointment Rules. This will include assessing the range of sanctions and also how business appointment conditions should be proportionate to risk, as well as whether a lighter touch regime is appropriate for unpaid, voluntary roles with not-for-profit organisations. The Boardman review will also bring insight to this broader review.

I would like to thank the Committee for your ongoing work on these matters.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'True', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**Lord True CBE**