

**From:** [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk on behalf of "Propriety and Ethics Mailbox" <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Mon, 15 Jul 2024 15:09:24 +0100  
**To:** "Permanent Secretary (DSIT)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** "Freedman, Helen (DSIT)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Question on appointment

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I'd recommend that you read the letter from Cat Little and the accompanying annex on routes into Government. Do let me know if there are any further questions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 10 Jul 2024 at 14:30, Permanent Secretary (DSIT) [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi PET,

Sarah and the Secretary of State have discussed the appointment of Emily Middleton to the department on an FTA to lead a piece of work around the department's new role as the digital centre for government.

The individual in question is a Partner at Public Digital, a consultancy that works with organisations on digital transformation, and before the election had been on secondment to the Labour Party. We understand that she did not take part in campaigning activity for the party, but advised the party on their proposals on digital.

We plan for Sarah to have the usual conversation around potential conflicts and mitigations as she would for other senior appointments, but I would be grateful for any advice on whether there is anything further to consider around this appointment, given her connection to the Labour Party and history of work in the private sector in the digital space.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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Propriety and Ethics Team

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