

*From the Chair*



**OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS**

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**BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP, former First Minister of Scotland. Paid appointment with London Speakers Bureau.**

1. You approached the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (the Committee) under the government's Business Appointment Rules for Former Ministers (the Rules) seeking advice on taking up an appointment as a speaker with the London Speakers Bureau.
2. The purpose of the Rules is to protect the integrity of the government. The Committee has considered the risks associated with the actions and decisions taken during your time in office, alongside the information and influence you may offer London Speakers Bureau. The material information taken into consideration by the Committee is set out in the annex below.
3. The Committee's advice is not an endorsement of the appointment - it imposes a number of conditions to mitigate the potential risks to the government associated with the appointment under the Rules.
4. The Ministerial Code sets out that ministers must abide by the Committee's advice. It is an applicant's personal responsibility to manage the propriety of any appointment. Former ministers of the Crown, and Members of Parliament, are expected to uphold the highest standards of propriety and act in accordance with the 7 Principles of Public Life.

The Committee's consideration of the risks presented

5. The Committee<sup>1</sup> noted you did not meet with nor have any official dealings with the London Speakers Bureau in office, and therefore the risk this role could reasonably be seen as a reward for decisions made, or actions taken, in office is low.

#### The Committee's advice

6. The Committee does not consider joining a speaking agency to raise any particular concerns under the government's Business Appointment Rules, provided it is subject to standard conditions which prevent improper use of information and influence.
7. It is an individual's responsibility to manage the propriety of the specific pieces of work undertaken. In particular, as the former First Minister of Scotland, you must be careful not to offer any unfair insight as a result of your access to information and potential influence in government - which the conditions below seek to mitigate.
8. As the former First Minister, you are subject to a standard three month waiting period from your last day in office.
9. Taking into account these factors, in accordance with the government's Business Appointment Rules, the Committee advises this appointment with the **London Speakers Bureau** be subject to the following conditions:
  - you should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of yourself or the persons or organisations to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to you from your time in ministerial office;
  - for two years from your last day in ministerial office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying Scottish Government or its arms' length bodies on behalf of the London Speakers Bureau (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); nor should you make use, directly or indirectly, of your contacts in the government and/or ministerial office to influence policy, secure business/funding or otherwise unfairly advantage the London Speakers Bureau (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients); and
  - for two years from your last day in ministerial office you should not undertake any work with the London Speakers Bureau (including parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients) that involves providing advice on the terms of, or with regard to the subject matter of a bid with,

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<sup>1</sup>. This application for advice was considered by Andrew Cumpsty; Isabel Doverty; Hedley Finn OBE; Sarah de Gay; The Rt Hon Lord Eric Pickles; Michael Prescott; The Baroness Thornton and Mike Weir. Dawid Konotey-Ahulu CBE DL was unavailable.

or contract relating directly to the work of, the Scottish Government or its arms' length bodies.

10. The advice and the conditions under the government's Business Appointment Rules relate to your previous role in government only; they are separate rules administered by other bodies such as the Standards Commission for Scotland<sup>2</sup> and the lobbying register in Scotland. You are reminded that as a Member of the Scottish Parliament you have a separate ban on paid lobbying under the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament. It is an applicant's personal responsibility to understand any other rules and regulations they may be subject to in parallel with this Committee's advice.
11. The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister *"should not engage in communication with government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office."*
12. You must inform us as soon as you take up employment with this organisation, or if it is announced that you will do so. Please also inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change the nature of your role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to make a fresh application.
13. Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website, and where appropriate, refer to it in the relevant annual report.

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles

## **Annex - Material information**

### The role

1. You informed the Committee you wish to take up a paid, part-time role as a Speaker with London Speakers Bureau - a speaking agency. You said you would speak with the agency on an ad-hoc basis.
2. You confirmed this role would not involve contact with government.

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<sup>2</sup> All Members of Scottish Parliament are prevented from paid lobbying under the Code of Conduct for MSP.

### Dealings in office

3. You did not meet with the London Speakers Bureau while in office and there is no relationship between the company and your former department. You also confirmed you did not have any involvement in policy, nor did you make any decisions relevant to the London Speakers Bureau while in office.

### Department Assessment

4. The Scottish Government confirmed the details you provided.
5. The Scottish Government recommended the standard conditions & a reminder on the Radcliffe Principles in considering the content of any speeches you may deliver.