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From the Chairman



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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You asked for the Committee's advice about accepting a part-time appointment as a Trustee of the charity Silverline, after leaving Government in September 2012.

The Committee noted that that you had had some official dealings with the organisation before it achieved charitable status and that the Department of Health has agreed to contribute to the funding of the charity during its launch phase. It also noted that the appointment is unpaid and that you have waited three months from the date of your leaving office before seeking to take up the appointment.

Our advice is that that we see no reason why you should not take up the appointment forthwith, subject to the condition that, for two years after leaving office, you should not become personally involved in lobbying Government on behalf of your new employer, and should stand aside from any bid for funding or contract dealings involving your new employer and the Department of Health. This advice is also given on the basis that you would make clear in any dealings you have with other organisations with which Silverline has or is seeking work involving the health sector, that you are not representing the Department of Health and that you have no special access to the Department.

It might be helpful if I add that lobbying is defined in the Business Appointment Rules in the following way: "Lobbying in this context means that the former civil servant should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted".

I should be grateful if you would inform us as soon as you take up the appointment, or if it is announced that you will do so, either by returning the enclosed form or by emailing the office at the above address. We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments which have not been taken up or announced. This could lead to a false assumption being made about whether you had

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complied with the Ministerial Code. Similarly, I should be grateful if you would inform us if you propose to extend or otherwise change your role with Silverline as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for you to seek fresh advice.

Once the appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Lord Lang of Monkton

Rt Hon Paul Burstow MP