



Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

PCS / AN / 2023.01

Committee on Standards

Template Provision on Lobbying for Reward

1. This Advice Note is provided in accordance with paragraph 95 of the Committee's First Report of Session 2022-23¹, in which the Committee proposes to ask the Commissioner to advise "on wording for a template clause and letter of undertaking which satisfies the requirements of the new rule".

¹ (HC 227) *New Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules: Promoting Appropriate Values, Attitudes and Behaviour in Parliament*: "94. We propose introducing a requirement that a Member who takes on an outside role must obtain a written contract or written statement of particulars detailing their duties. This should be provided to the Commissioner on request but need not be provided to the Registrar on registering the employment. The contract, or a separate letter of undertaking, must specify that the Member's duties will not include lobbying Ministers, Members of Parliament or public officials on behalf of that employer, nor providing paid parliamentary advice, and that the employer may not ask them to do so. 95. Ahead of any new rule on this matter coming into force, we intend to ask the Commissioner to advise on wording for a template clause and letter of undertaking which satisfies the requirements of the new rule. We anticipate that a Member should be able to readily obtain from the Commissioner's office the template clause or letter of undertaking for their use in proposed contracts. No adverse inference will be drawn, however, from a Member choosing to use a bespoke clause instead of the template, so long as this meets the Code's requirements."

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2. The Appendix to this Advice sets out the template provision. Variations designed to reflect the internal arrangements of individual employers should retain the principle of the template. The Registrar of Members' Financial Interests and I will be happy to advise.

3. I am copying this advice to: Mr Speaker; the Leader of the House; the Shadow Leader of the House; the Clerk of the House; the Clerk of the Journals; Counsel to Mr Speaker; the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests; and the Clerk to the Committee.

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3 January 2023

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APPENDIX

TEMPLATE PROVISION ON LOBBYING

.—(1) [*The employer*] acknowledges that as a Member of Parliament [*name of Member*] is bound to comply with the provisions of the House of Commons Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, as it has effect from time to time.

(2) [*The employer*] and [*name of Member*] affirm that nothing in this [*contract / arrangement*] requires [*name of Member*]: (a) to advocate a particular matter in the House of Commons (whether by speaking in the House or Committee, voting, initiating parliamentary proceedings or in any other way); (b) to make approaches to (or respond to approaches from) Ministers, other Members or public officials; (c) to advise any person or body on lobbying or otherwise influencing the work of Parliament (apart from advice on public policy and current affairs and advice in general terms about how Parliament works); or (d) otherwise to use [*her / his*] position as a Member of Parliament to confer a financial or material benefit on [*the employer*] or anyone connected with [*the employer*].

(3) [*The employer*] acknowledges that [*name of Member*] undertakes to take all reasonable steps to ensure that nothing [*she / he*] does in pursuance (or apparent or purported pursuance) of this [*contract / arrangement*] contravenes the House of Commons Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament together with the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members, as they have effect from time to time.
