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Summary

On 19 July 2021, I started an inquiry on my own initiative into whether Ms Nickie Aiken MP had failed to register her ticket to the BRIT Awards 2021 on the Register of Members' Financial Interests within the 28-day time limit set by the House.

- 5 Having been made aware of Ms Aiken's attendance at the BRIT awards, I undertook a review of the Register of Members' Financial Interests. My review found that, although Ms Aiken had registered her attendance at the event, she had failed to meet the 28-day deadline set by the House. Ms Aiken's registration entry was 23 days late.
- 10 During my investigation, I sought comments from Ms Aiken, who promptly provided a full explanation and apology. Ms Aiken also outlined the action she had taken to ensure the timely registration of any future interests.

- 15 Having considered the information available to me, I concluded that Ms Aiken had a duty to register her ticket to this event on the Register of Members' Financial Interests within 28-days of acceptance. I found that by failing to meet the 28-day time limit set by the House, Ms Aiken had breached paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

- 20 In my view, this breach is at the less serious end of the spectrum. I have therefore concluded my inquiry by way of the rectification procedure which is available to me under Standing Order No 150. I have asked the Registrar to arrange for the relevant entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests to be placed in bold italics, so it would be clear it had been the subject of an inquiry.

Written evidence

1. Letter from the Commissioner to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 19 July 2021

5 Following the publication of an on-line article by Politico on 12 May 2021¹ and my review of the Member's Register of Financial Interests, I have decided to open a formal inquiry on my own initiative into your compliance with paragraph 14 of the House of Commons Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, using the authority given to me by Standing Order No. 150. I have enclosed a copy of the article with this letter.

The scope of my inquiry

10 My inquiry will focus on whether by failing to register your acceptance of a complimentary ticket for the Brit Awards, which took place on 11 May 2021, within 28 days of receipt, you have acted in breach of paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

If the scope of my inquiry changes, I will update you in writing.

15 The relevant rules of the House

The overarching rules are found in the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.² Paragraph 14 of the Code states:

20 *"Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders."*

25 The Guide to the rules relating to the conduct of Members, which is appended to the Code, contains more detail about registration. Chapter 1, paragraph 2 states:

Requirements of the House

30 2. The House requires new Members, within one month of their election, to register all their current financial interests, and any registrable benefits (other than earnings) received in the 12 months before their election. **After that, Members are required to register within 28 days any change in those registrable interests.** Such a

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/newsletter/london-playbook/politico-london-playbook-spotted-at-the-brits-the-covid-chilcot-top-billing/>

² <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmcode/1882/188201.htm>

change includes both the acquisition of a new interest and the ceasing of any registered interest, for example because an employment has ceased or because a holding has reduced in value or been sold. [My emphasis]

5 **Category 3: Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources**

Threshold for registration

10 22. Members must register, subject to the paragraphs below, any gifts, benefits or hospitality with a value of over £300 which they receive from a UK source. They must also register multiple benefits from the same source if these have a value of more than £300 in a calendar year.

Requirements for registration

23. Under this category Members must register:

15 Any benefits which relate in any way to their membership of the House or political activities, if provided by a UK source either free or at concessionary rates, including: 31 ³

a) event or travel tickets;

b) hospitality in the UK, including receptions, meals and accommodation;

20 ...

Next steps

I would welcome your comments on the allegation that your alleged actions have amounted to a breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members. I would also be grateful for your answers to the following specific questions:

- 25
1. Are you aware of the requirement to register all new financial interests within 28 days of acquisition?
 2. Please can you outline the circumstances that caused this interest to be registered outside of the 28 days as set by the House, and what prompted you

³ FN31 A concessionary rate should be valued by reference to the nearest equivalent commercial rate.

to register your acceptance of the ticket to the Brit Awards 2021 on 30 June 2021?

- 5 3. If, on reflection, you accept that this interest was not registered within the deadline as set by the House, please explain what steps you will now take to prevent any further late registrations?

It would be helpful to receive any evidence to support your responses when you reply to this letter. Any other points you wish to make to help me with this inquiry would also be welcome.

Important information

- 10 My inquiries are conducted in private. However, following the decision taken by the House on 21 April 2021, I will shortly publish on my webpages the fact that I am conducting an inquiry about your alleged breach of the Code of Conduct. If contacted, my office will not comment on any aspect of this specific inquiry to third parties. They will answer direct factual questions about the processes I follow, and
15 the standards system more generally, but will not provide any comment or details about the particulars of this inquiry.

This letter and any subsequent correspondence between us in connection with this inquiry is protected by parliamentary privilege. It should be kept confidential until the outcome of my inquiry is published.

- 20 The Members' Services Team (MST) can support and signpost you and/or your staff to appropriate support services. You can contact them confidentially on [details redacted] for a range of issues, including support with handling the impact of media attention.

Procedure

- 25 I enclose a copy of the Commissioner's Information Note, which sets out the procedure for inquiries. Please note that this has not yet been updated to reflect the changes flowing from the decision of 19 July 2018.

- While I do not, at this stage, know whether it will be necessary to interview you about this matter, it would be open to you to be accompanied at any such interview.
30 I am, of course, very happy to meet with you at any stage if you would find that helpful.

I should say now, as a matter of courtesy, that I may seek the advice of the House authorities and others as part of this inquiry. If I do so, I will share that correspondence with you.

Information provided to me during the course of my inquiry will be retained, and disposed of, in accordance with the House of Commons' Authorised Records Disposal Policy.

Potential outcomes

5 Inquiries are generally concluded in one of three ways. If the evidence does not substantiate the allegation, it will not be upheld. If the evidence demonstrates a breach of the rules, I may, in circumstances defined by Standing Order No. 150, uphold the allegation and conclude the inquiry using the rectification procedure, without making a referral to the Committee on Standards. Where an allegation is
10 not upheld or is rectified, the investigation material, including our correspondence, will be published on the Parliament website.

If I uphold the allegation, and it is either unsuitable for the rectification procedure, or you do not accept my decision, I must make a referral to the Committee on Standards. My memorandum to the Committee will be published as an appendix to
15 the Committee's own Report.

Regardless of the outcome of my inquiry, I must emphasise that all the relevant evidence, including our correspondence, will be published when this inquiry is concluded. I routinely redact the personal data of third parties unless it is relevant to my decision(s). Please tell me if you provide sensitive material that you think I
20 should redact. I will consider carefully any such request.

Action

I would be grateful to have your response to this letter as soon as possible and no later than Friday 30 July 2021. Please let me know before that date if you require more time to respond.

25 If you would prefer me to communicate with you by email, or via a different postal address, please give the details when you reply to this letter. It would also be helpful if you were willing to provide a telephone number through which I might contact you.

30 Due to the Current health crisis, my team are working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could send your response electronically to; standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

19 July 2021

2. Letter from Ms Nickie Aiken MP to the Commissioner, 19 July 2021

Thank you for your letter (19th July 2021) regarding my compliance with the paragraph 14 of the House of Commons Code of Conduct for MPs in regard to my failure to register my ticket to the Brits in the Member's Register of Financial Interests within the 28 days of the event.

I can only apologise for this oversight and I appreciate the time you have taken to outline the rules to me. As a new MP and one who has not accepted any hospitality or gifts over £300 since I entered the House of Commons this was my first time of making a declaration. To be perfectly honest with you, I had naively thought that this was a free event as it was part of the Government's official Events Research Programme. One of the reasons I accepted was to see how the programme was working. As the MP for a constituency that covers the West End with so many theatres and cultural venues, I was keen for the programme to be a success to allow the entertainment sector to reopen safely. I appreciate that this is not an excuse, but I wish to provide you with proper context for why I wished to attend the event. I fully accept my mistake and can assure you I will take the utmost of care in future and will not make the same mistake again. I have not accepted any further gifts or hospitality since the Brits and in fact declined a ticket to the Euros 2020 final as I have no interest in football.

In regards the specific questions you have asked me, my answers are as follows:

1. Are you aware of the requirement to register all new financial interests within 28 days of acquisition?

I was aware of the requirement but was under the mistaken impression that as the Brits was part of the Government's Events Research Programme that this was in fact a free event. I failed to ask my hosts, UK Music, if there was a cost attached to the ticket I was given. I certainly will not make this mistake again.

2. Please can you outline the circumstances that caused this interest to be registered outside of the 28 days as set by the House, and what prompted you to register your acceptance of the ticket to the Brit Awards 2021 on 30 June 2021?

I failed to register the interest with the 28 days limit as I was under the mistaken impression that the Brits was a free event. I realised that this was incorrect when I received an email from my hosts, UK Music, outlining the cost of the ticket on 29th June 2021 and apologising for the delay in providing the details for the ticket as they had only just received the invoice. As soon as I received the email I contacted the Commissioner's office immediately and highlighted my mistake and made the declaration.

3. If, on reflection, you accept that this interest was not registered within the deadline as set by the House, please explain what steps you will now take to prevent any further late registrations?

5 If I am invited to an event or offered gifts in excess of £300 in the future I will ascertain with the host or gift provider the value of said gift or hospitality before accepting. If I do accept I will declare them without exception within the 28 days limit.

I hope my answers demonstrate my sincere apologies for the whole episode and can assure you that it was not undertaken wilfully and will not be repeated.

10 *19 July 2021*

3. Letter from the Commissioner to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 3 August 2021

Thank you for your letter dated 19 July 2021, and for the helpful information you have provided in response to my initial enquiries.

15 I note in your response you said that you were a new MP, and, not having previously accepted hospitality or gifts over £300, this was your first time making a declaration. You also said that you believed that the event was free as it was part of the Government's official Events Research Programme.

In view of the above, I would ask that you assist my enquiries further and provide the following information by 18 August 2021:

- 20
- A copy of the correspondence from UK Music inviting you to the BRIT awards 2021 and your response.
 - A copy of your correspondence with Registrar for Members' Financial Interests, including any records you have made of your telephone conversations with the Registrar regarding this matter.
- 25
- I note that you have said that you are a new member, please confirm whether you have received any training or guidance on the registration of financial interests, and, if so, please provide the details. If you have not received any training or guidance, please confirm what action you intend to take to ensure you fully understand your registration responsibilities.

30 Once I have received and considered the information I have requested, I will contact you to update you on my next course of action.

In the meantime, this matter remains protected by Parliamentary Privilege and should continue to be kept confidential.

3 August 2021

4. Email from the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 24 August 2021

5 Further to the Commissioner's letter dated 3 August 2021 (attached), I note from the records to date that Ms Stone has not yet received a reply. This is a gentle reminder that the deadline set by the Commissioner for a response was 18 August 2021 which has now passed. I would therefore ask that you provide your response by no later than 31 August 2021 so that Ms Stone may progress her investigation. The password remains the same, however, if you are having any problems accessing
10 the documents or have any questions then please contact me on [details redacted].

24 August 2021

5. Email from Ms Nickie Aiken MP to the Commissioner, 24 August 2021

15 Further to your email this morning please find attached email correspondence between myself and UK Music officials who invited me to join them as their guest to the BRIT Awards in May this year. As you already know, I was mistaken in believing that there was no cost attached to the ticket. A mistake I highlighted as soon as I was made aware by my hosts.

I attach:

- 20 • copies of the email correspondence between myself and UK Music inviting me to the BRIT awards 2021 and the latter email from UK Music highlighting the cost. You will see from that email that they admit they were late in informing me of costs due to lateness of receiving relevant invoices.⁴
- 25 • copy of my correspondence with Registrar for Members' Financial Interests. I believe I and my office manager also called the team as soon as I realised my mistake. My office manager is on holiday until 8th September. The calls were to confirm that a mistake had been made and that we were making the declaration immediately. These calls were on 30th June when I read the email from UK Music notifying me of the cost of the tickets.⁵

30 Regarding your question whether I have received any training or guidance on the registration of financial interests, I and my then office manager, [name redacted], met the Commissioner when I first entered Parliament to go through my declarations and discuss what should and should not be declared in the Registrar. I would not consider this a training session. Apart from that I do not recall receiving any specific training. This episode with the BRITs has certainly refocussed my mind
35 on accepting such invitations in the future and if I am minded to accept a similar invitation I will definitely inquire with the host how much the tickets and hospitality

⁴ See enclosure 1 below

⁵ See enclosure 2 below

is worth before accepting and will declare within the 28 day rule in future. I have also spoken to my current office manager about the situation to ensure that she and I discuss each invitation, the merits of accepting and the costs involved. I would certainly welcome taking part in a suitable training session on the registration of financial interests.

I hope I have provided the information required. Please accept my apologies again for not responding sooner but for some reason which I will investigate I have not been able to find your original email from 3rd August in either of my inboxes.

24 August 2021

10 Enclosure 1: Email correspondence between UK Music and Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 29 April - 30 June 2021

Email from the Chief Executive, UK Music to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 29 April 2021

From: [details redacted]

Sent: 29 April 11:41PM

15 To: Nickie Aiken MP

Subject: INVITE: BRIT Awards, Tuesday 11th May, 6pm

Dear Nickie,

I'm writing to invite you to be our guest at The BRIT Awards on Tuesday 11th May at The O2 Arena. The event will form part of the Government's scientific Events Research Programme aimed at enabling the safe and rapid return of major sporting and live music events at scale.

The show will be hosted by Jack Whitehall, with the coveted BRITs trophy being awarded to those Artists who have been honoured in the category they've been nominated in. Nominees and Guest Presenters will be present and there will be a series of stunning live performances on the night, including Dua Lipa, Griff, Headie One, Arlo Parks, Rag'n'Bone Man with P!NK and the NHS Choir, and more superstar names to be announced soon. There will also be some additional pre-recorded performances. The show is live to air on ITV1 from 8pm.

Attendance is conditional on a negative Lateral Flow test result taken in person at your local NHS Trust testing centre no more than 36 hours before the event. You will need to take a test even if you have been vaccinated. You can find your nearest testing centre here – there are a number available in Westminster, including at Church House (off Millbank) and Broadway by St James Park station.

Because of the controlled nature of the event and the need to submit names to the BRITS asap, I would be grateful if you could please confirm your attendance by midday tomorrow (Friday 30th April) and to please make us aware of any dietary requirements you might have.

5 Event timings:

6pm – Doors.

8pm – Show start

10.30pm – Show end

10 Being a pilot event as part of the Government's Events Research Programme, there will be specific requirements that each guest needs to be aware of and adhere to:

1. You must come to the event with a negative Lateral Flow test result, taken IN PERSON at your local NHS Trust testing centre no more than 36 hours before the event. The test can take place from 7am on Monday 10th May. You need to take the Test even if you have been vaccinated.
- 15 2. You must come with photo ID (NHS badge, passport or drivers licence)
3. Ahead of the event, you will be emailed a link to enter your data. Here you will consent and agree to be part of the Government study. You may be asked to take a PCR test on the day of the event and five days after the event – this is a voluntary step, and the PCR test results will be used for the Events Research Programme to better inform future testing regimes.
- 20 4. Your email address will be forwarded to The O2 so you can receive your digital seat ticket, which will gain you entry to the event.
5. There will be no social distancing in place within the arena. Face coverings will need to be worn in communal areas, but these can be removed upon entry to the Suites.
- 25 5. There will be no social distancing in place within the arena. Face coverings will need to be worn in communal areas, but these can be removed upon entry to the Suites.

Please confirm attendance as soon as possible, and I hope to see you on the 11th!

Best, [Name redacted]

Chief Executive UK Music

Email from Ms Nickie Aiken MP to the Chief Executive UK Music, 30 April 2021

30 **From:** Nickie Aiken

Sent: 30 April 2021 11:31AM

To: Name redacted

Subject: FW: INVITE: BRIT Awards, Tuesday 11th May, 6pm

Dear [Name redacted]

- 5 Thank you so much for your very kind invitation to the BRIT Awards. I would be delighted to attend. I completely understand and accept the importance of taking a covid test beforehand and will obviously compile.

I look forward to seeing you on the 11th and thank you once again for inviting me.

Yours

- 10 Nickie Aiken MP

Email from Chief Executive, UK Music to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 30 April 2021

From: [Name redacted]

Sent: 30 April 2021 11:45 AM

To: Nickie Aiken

- 15 **Subject:** RE: INVITE: BRIT Awards, Tuesday 11th May, 6pm

Dear Nickie,

Brilliant news! We will send on additional details next week, but I look forward to seeing you on the 11th!

Very best, [Name redacted]

- 20 Chief Executive UK Music

Email from Deputy CEO UK Music to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 7 May 2021

From: [Name redacted]

Sent: 7 May 2021 12:09pm

To: Nickie Aiken

Subject: BRITS 2021 - FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR UK MUSIC GUESTS

Importance: High

Dear Nickie,

5 I am following up on the BRIT awards where you have kindly agreed to be our guest on Tuesday.

10 Hopefully you will have now received an email from the organisers setting out key details to follow in preparation. I attach a copy of the message I received. If you cannot find it I encourage you to check your junk and spam folders as it contains very important information which you must follow to guarantee entry next Tuesday. If you have not received the email please let me know ASAP.

In particular, please be aware:-

- 15 • You must carry out an in-person NHS Lateral Flow Test on Monday 10 or Tuesday 11 May. Failure to provide a negative NHS test result via email or SMS will result in entry being refused. Depending on what is available in your area this may need to be booked in advance so we recommend you organise this today. Details for your nearest site and bookings are available here.
- 20 • You should also order an initial PCR test to be taken on the day of the event. Details on how to order this can be found here and again we recommend you order this today if you have not done so already.
- Please ensure you bring photo ID (passport or driving licence) to the event on Tuesday.
- 25 • In order to receive your ticket you will need to set up an account. Please visit [details redacted] with the email address you provided to register your tickets.
- Tickets are only accessible through the O2 venue app which you will need to download from here. AXS will be in touch in the coming days with your ticket so please check spam and junk folders.
- Please plan ahead regarding your travel. More details here.
- 30 • Face covering should be worn in all communal areas during the event including suite concourses unless you are exempt. Face coverings can be removed safely in your suite if you choose.

Best wishes,

[Name redacted]

Deputy CEO & Director of Public Affairs UK Music

Email from Deputy CEO UK Music to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 29 June 2021

From: [Name redacted]

5 **Sent:** 29 June 2021 5:22pm

To: Nickie Aiken

Subject: BRITS

Importance: High

Dear Nickie,

10 Many thanks again for being our guest at the BRITS in May. I hope you agree that it was an excellent event and a much needed boost as we look forward to the eventual return to live music.

15 I must apologise for the delay in confirming with you the cost of the ticket. Up until today I would have only be able to provide a provisional figure but we have now had all invoices in and I can confirm the value as £750+VAT.

Do please let me know whether you require any further information at this point.

Best wishes, [Name redacted]

Deputy CEO & Director of Public Affairs UK Music

20 **Enclosure 2: Email from Ms Nickie Aiken MP to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, 30 June 2021**

From: AIKEN, Nickie

Sent: 30 June 2021 3:56pm

To: Commons Registrar

25 **Subject:** register of interest

Please find attached a declaration to be included in my register of interests. Please accept my sincere apologies. This is the first time I have made such a declaration and I have been waiting for the organisation who invited me to send me the costs. They have done so today and hence why I am making the declaration now. I apologise for the lateness of the declaration.

Yours

Nickie Aiken MP

24 August 2021

6. Letter from the Commissioner to Ms Nickie Aiken MP, 15 September 2021

Thank you for your emails of 19 July and 24 August 2021, and the additional information you have provided in response to my questions. I am grateful for the promptness of your replies.

I now have sufficient information to make a decision on whether, by failing to register your acceptance of a complimentary ticket for the Brit Awards, which took place on 11 May 2021, within the 28-day timeframe set by the House, you have acted in breach of paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

My decision

Having considered our correspondence, the evidence and the published rules and guidance, I have decided that, by registering your ticket to the BRIT Awards outside of the 28-days set by the House, you have breached paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament. Outlined below is an explanation of how I have reached my decision.

The House of Commons Code of Conduct and Guidance

Paragraph 14 of the House of Commons Code of Conduct states:

“Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders.”

The Guide to the Rules states that Members are required to register any new registerable interests within 28 days of receipt. With respect to 'gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources' Category 3 adds that Members must register any gifts,

benefits or hospitality with a value over £300. For the purposes of Category 3, hospitality includes event or travel tickets as well as receptions, meals and accommodation.

Rationale

5 On 29 April 2021, you received an email from [name redacted], Chief Executive UK Music, inviting you to the BRIT Awards 2021. In his email, [name redacted] stated that the event, which was due to take place on 11 May 2021, would form part of the Government's scientific Events Research Programme. You confirmed your attendance the following day.

10 The Brit Awards took place on 11 May and you attended.

On 29 June 2021, [name redacted] Deputy CEO & Director of Public Affairs at UK Music emailed you to apologise for the delay in confirming the cost of your ticket to the event. [Name redacted] confirmed the ticket cost was £750+VAT.

15 On 30 June 2021 you submitted your update for the Register of Members' Financial Interests, and in doing so you apologised to the Registrar for the delay.

In your response dated 19 July 2021, you said that you had believed that, as it was a test event for the Government, it was free, however as soon as you were notified that there was a cost attached, you registered your attendance with the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests.

20 Finally, I note you said that in future you will enquire with the host before accepting future invitations in order to ensure that such an error is not repeated.

25 Having considered the information available, it is clear that the value of the BRIT Awards ticket was over the £300 threshold for registration, and that it should have been registered on the Register of Members' Financial Interests within 28-days. Furthermore, whilst the ticket was subsequently registered, registration did not occur until 30 June 2021,

30 23 days after the 28-day deadline expected by the House. For these reasons, it is my decision that your registration under category 3, of the ticket to the Brit Awards on 11 May 2021, was outside of the 28-day timeframe set by the House and was, therefore, a breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

35 It is clear from the information provided, that you registered this interest shortly after being notified that it was required, and you have given me assurances that you have amended your processes to ensure that, in future, you will register your interests in time.

Next Steps

5 I am satisfied there was no deliberate attempt to mislead, and I consider this breach to be at the less serious end of the spectrum. Standing Order No 150 makes provision for me to conclude an inquiry without making a referral to the Committee on Standards in certain circumstances. This process is called rectification and requires the entry in the current Register to be amended to bold italic type and include an appropriate explanatory note. The amended entry will remain on the register for a period of one year.

10 In view of the above, I have decided that a referral to the Standards Committee is not necessary and that I can resolve this breach of the rules through rectification. To do so, the Committee would generally expect the Member to provide the following:

- a) Confirmation you have accepted my decision;
- b) A clear acknowledgement that you have breached the rules;
- c) An apology for the breach; and
- 15 d) Information of the steps you have taken to rectify the breach and to ensure there is no recurrence of the breach.

20 I note that you have already acknowledged and apologised for your breach of the rules and provided details of the action you intend to take to prevent further late registration of interests, for which I would like to thank you. Therefore, in order to progress this through rectification, I will require the following action from you:

- Carefully review my decision and confirm in writing that you accept it;
- Include with your response an undertaking that future registrations of financial interests will be made in line with the requirements of the Guide.

25 If you are content for me to conclude the inquiry in this way, please write to me with the above information by 29 September 2021.

If you accept my decision, I will share my written evidence pack with you, so that you can check its factual accuracy before publication. I will also report the outcome to the Committee on Standards in due course as a matter of routine. Finally, I will ask the Registrar to arrange to annotate the relevant information in the Register.

30 If you do not accept my decision, you should tell me the reasons for that by reply. After which, I will prepare a Memorandum to the Committee on Standards, so that they may consider the matter. I would give you the opportunity to see and comment on a draft of the Memorandum, but the content of it would, in the final analysis, be for me alone.

In the meantime, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

5 As you know, due to the ongoing pandemic, my team are currently working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

15 September 2021

7. Email from Ms Nickie Aiken MP to the Commissioner, 29 September 2021

10 Thank you for your further email. Apologies for not clarifying more clearly before. I can confirm that I have carefully review your decision and confirm that I fully accept it. I would also like to confirm to you that I will ensure that in all my future registrations of financial interests will be made in line with the requirements of the Guide.

29 September 2021