

Dr Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date:— 22 July 2010
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Dear *Dr. Lucas*

As outlined in Edward Davey's recent response to your question concerning the appointment of Jenny Block as legal director of the Postal Services Commission (Postcomm), I am writing with further details of the contractual arrangement between Jenny Block, Simmons & Simmons and Postcomm.

Postcomm was created by the Postal Services Act 2000 as the independent national regulatory authority for the postal sector in the United Kingdom. The Postal Services Act 2000 gives the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills the power to appoint Commissioners, including the chairman and chief executive. Commissioners are responsible for executive staff appointments to Postcomm.

Jenny Block has been appointed to carry out the duties of Postcomm's legal director on an interim basis from 1st January 2010 through to the autumn of 2010. She is seconded from Simmons & Simmons on a part-time basis and is not employed by Postcomm.

Any potential conflicts of interest were considered before the secondment begun, as we do for any recruitment. We do not believe that there is any conflict of interest in Jenny Block's appointment to the role of legal director.

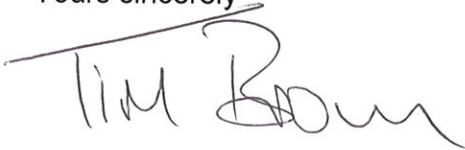
Postcomm has agreed appropriate and robust contractual terms in the secondment agreement between Postcomm and Simmons & Simmons that address confidentiality, working practices and the relationship between Jenny Block, Simmons & Simmons and Postcomm during the secondment. In common with all Commissioners and Executive Board members at Postcomm, Jenny has signed a declaration of interest and details of these declarations are published on Postcomm's website.

Postcomm and Simmons & Simmons are fully aware of the need to avoid potential conflicts of interest in making these arrangements and Simmons & Simmons has managed such arrangements on a number of occasions in compliance with its regulatory and professional obligations.

Postcomm has very serious regard for its status as the independent national regulatory authority for the postal sector in the United Kingdom and has robust appointment and recruitment procedures to ensure any potential conflicts of interest are addressed prior to appointment.

I would be very happy to meet with you to brief you on Postcomm and our work developing a new regulatory framework for the postal service. If you would like to meet then do please contact my assistant Ruth Elliott (ruth.elliott@psc.gov.uk; 020 7593 2162) to arrange a convenient time and date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

TIM BROWN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE