



Mr Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Building, Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

Mr David Bell
Permanent Secretary
Department for Education

2 June 2010

Dr Bell

I was the guest of Sky News at the weekend, staying for two nights at the Llanged Hotel in Wales for the Hay Festival. Over the weekend I took part in a TV debate on Sunday morning for Sky News and an event for the Guardian. I estimate that the hospitality provided will have cost up to £500, including accommodation, food, and transport to and from the railway station. I also attended a dinner hosted by the Guardian where the hospitality cost would have been up to £100.

I certainly want to declare that hospitality for the record, and I would also welcome your advice on whether you feel there is any possibility that the hospitality I have received might result in any future conflict of interest. If that were likely to be a risk in the future I would wish to reimburse the company for my stay.

with my good wish,

MICHAEL GOVE

Department for
Education



David Bell

Permanent Secretary

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
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3 June 2010

Dear Secretary of State
HOSPITALITY

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2010 regarding hospitality at the Hay Festival last weekend.

I have noted the hospitality that you received and am grateful to you for drawing this to my attention, consistent with the requirements of the Ministerial Code (paragraphs 7.20 to 7.24)

In response to your question regarding any possible conflict of interest, I do not foresee any particular difficulties in relation to your Ministerial responsibilities. In your role as Secretary of State for Education, it is unlikely that you will be party to any decisions relating to Sky TV. However, if such an occasion were to arise, you may wish to draw officials' attention to the hospitality you received last weekend and this response.

Best wishes.

Yours ever

David Bell

DAVID BELL

Department for
Education