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Mr Malcolm McKibbin KBE
Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
Stormont Castle
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Our Ref: RHI /161221-pmc

Date: 21 December 2016

Dear Malcolm,

I trust that this letter finds you well.

I am writing further to the allegations which have been made by former DETI Minister, Jonathan Bell, in an interview with Stephen Nolan of the BBC, that a number of special advisors acted to prevent him from discharging his responsibilities as Minister.

He described a situation in which he was obstructed by special advisors acting on behalf of OFMdfM and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

It is clear from his description of their alleged behaviour that, if accurate, it would constitute a serious breach of their Code of Conduct.


Given that they are employed, not as Party Staff, but as Civil Servants, I am writing to ask whether you have initiated any investigation of these allegations and, if so, whether the normal rules will apply for such investigations, in which the advisors will be suspended pending the outcome of your investigation.

I would be most grateful for your urgent attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Naomi Long MLA
East Belfast Alliance Assembly Member
Leader of the Alliance Party

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m:  Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry