

FROM THE RT HON DAVID CAMERON

By E-mail

Thursday, 6 May 2021

Dear Mel,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2021. I am pleased to be able to assist the Inquiry, both by providing the information requested below and by giving oral evidence before the Committee in due course.

Taking each of your requests in turn:

- 1. Can you provide a timeline of any contact you (or your representatives) had with HM Treasury's (or its agencies' or public bodies') representatives or Ministers in relation to Greensill? Please provide a description of the nature of the contact, and any records related to those contacts. In particular please provide the Committee with the full texts that you sent the Chancellor, referred to by HM Treasury in its response to the Freedom of Information letter published in April 2021, but not provided then.¹ Redaction of the names of more junior staff will be acceptable.***

I have enclosed a timeline setting out the communications that I sent in 2020 to HM Treasury Ministers and representatives (and those of its agencies or public bodies) in relation to Greensill.

I have also attached copies of the communications I sent. This includes the text of my messages to the Chancellor, as requested, and also correspondence sent to others, including the Permanent Secretary and Second Permanent Secretary at HM Treasury, the Economic Secretary and Financial Secretary, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, government advisers and representatives at the Bank of England.

I have made some redactions, keeping these to a minimum. These include the names of junior staff, as suggested, as well as private or irrelevant information that does not relate to Greensill or the Treasury.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/977219/FOI_v29_FOI2021_1083_7_-_disclose_s41_vFINAL.pdf

2. ***Can you provide a timeline of any contact you had with any other Government departments' (or their agencies' or public bodies') representatives or Ministers in relation to Greensill, where the aim was to influence Treasury policy or any decisions in relation to Greensill? Please provide a description of the nature of the contact, and any records related to those contacts. Redaction of the names of more junior staff will be acceptable.***

I have included within the enclosed timeline and correspondence pack outgoing communications I sent in 2020 to Ministers and representatives from other government departments (or their agencies or bodies) where they related to Treasury policy or Treasury decisions in connection with Greensill.

As above, I have redacted the names of junior staff, as well as private or irrelevant information that does not relate to Greensill or the Treasury.

3. ***The Treasury's response in April 2021, referred to above, states that you "... reached out informally by telephone to the Chancellor, the Economic Secretary and the Financial Secretary on the matter of Greensill's access to the CCFE [Covid Corporate Financing Facility]." Please could you provide a description of those contacts, and any records you hold of them?***

My contact with the Chancellor, the Economic Secretary and the Financial Secretary on the matter of Greensill's access to the CCFE (Covid Corporate Financing Facility) is included within the enclosed timeline.

4. ***Can you provide a description of when and how you first became aware of any potential financial difficulties or weaknesses at Greensill?***

The first time I became concerned that the company might be in serious financial difficulty was in December 2020 following a call I received from Lex Greensill, during which I was told that the company's planned capital raising was not going as well as had been hoped.

Up until that point, I firmly believed that Greensill was in good financial health. In the autumn of 2020, I understood Greensill was on track for a relatively strong year financially and it had embarked upon what looked likely to be a successful capital raising.

The company had large international backers, including a substantial investment by General Atlantic, one of the most respected international backers of tech sector companies. I knew that General Atlantic had conducted significant due diligence in the months before I joined the firm. Large financial institutions, like Credit Suisse, were helping to enable Greensill's expansion. Well-known international blue-chip companies such as Airbus, Vodafone, Nissan, AstraZeneca, Ford and Oracle contracted and partnered with Greensill. This all spoke to the credibility of the company.

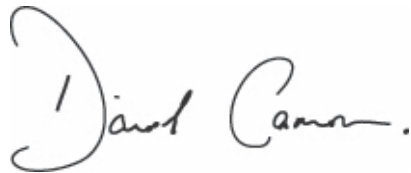
Greensill also had a strong Board, with experienced figures from business, banking and finance, including a Chairman with over three decades of banking experience, having held senior positions at firms such as SG Warburg, Deutsche Bank and Citi. I fully believed they would deal with any issues robustly if any meaningful concerns (financial or otherwise) arose.

5. Can you provide a description of how the lobbying of the Treasury was coordinated within Greensill, including who was involved and how?

My discussions around the representations I made on Greensill's behalf were principally with the CEO, Lex Greensill, and Bill Crothers, who was responsible for overseeing Greensill's engagement with the public sector.

I hope the above information and enclosures are useful to your Inquiry. I have used my best efforts to respond to your questions to assist the Treasury Committee in its work scrutinising the role of HM Treasury in relation to the Greensill engagement within the requested timeframe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Cameron." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a period at the end.

The Rt Hon Mel Stride MP
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