

**IN THE MANCHESTER  
EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL**

**BETWEEN:**

**MR R WAGENER**

**Claimant**

**-v-**

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAEL GOVE, MP**

**Respondent**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAEL GOVE, MP**


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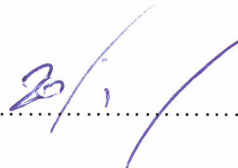
I, **MICHAEL GOVE**, of Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF **SHALL SAY** as follows:

1. I was appointed as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 15 September 2021. I was previously Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from July 2019 to September 2021. I was also Minister for the Cabinet Office from February 2020 to September 2021.
2. As part of the process of my giving this statement, I have been shown, and have read the Form ET1 submitted by Mr Wagener in which I am named as the Respondent.
3. As part of the process of my giving this statement I have also been shown, and have read, the following documents:
  - a. the two letters that Mr Wagener sent, addressed to me dated 1 March 2021 and 30 April 2021, in which he requests that a discretionary enhancement to his years of service for the purposes of calculating his pension entitlement in the Civil Service Pension Scheme;
  - b. the two letters that were sent to Mr Wagener in response to those letters dated 17 March 2021 and 21 July 2021
4. I can confirm that prior to giving this statement, I had not seen either of the letters from Mr Wagener before, nor did I see either of the letters that were sent to him in response.

5. I can also confirm that I did not make any personal decision in relation to the request made by Mr Wagener in his letters of 1 March 2021 and 30 April 2021.
6. I can see that the letters that were sent to Mr Wagener in response to his letters addressed to me were written by members of the Civil Service and Royal Mail Pensions Team, within Cabinet Office, who have operational responsibility for the Civil Service Pensions arrangements. It is entirely proper that Civil Service officials respond to letters such as these which may be addressed to an individual Minister. The Civil Service and Royal Mail Pensions Team are authorised to respond to operational queries regarding the Civil Service Pensions arrangements.
7. I can confirm that, in light of the fact that I have no personal knowledge of the facts giving rise of Mr Wagener's claim, nor have I personally made any decisions in relation to Mr Wagener's case, I have authorised Cabinet Office officials, with operational responsibility for the Civil Service Pensions arrangements, to deal with this claim on my behalf. This is because I have no information to provide that is relevant to the case.

I believe that the facts set out in this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
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Michael Gove

  
.....2022