



**UK Anti-
Corruption
Coalition**

Damian Hinds MP
Minister of State for Security
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

6 October 2021

Dear Minister,

We are writing on behalf of the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition, representing eighteen of the UK's leading anti-corruption organisations who work to tackle the risks of corruption in the UK and the UK's role in facilitating corruption around the world.

We wish to congratulate you on your new role as the Minister for Security and Borders, and welcome your engagement with civil society through the G7 Interior and Security Ministers Track process. We were pleased to see the UK's G7 Presidency grapple with the issue of corruption, recognise the threat it poses to the security of open societies, and recognise the responsibility of G7 countries to take a leading role in tackling it.

The UK has a particularly important role to play in this effort, as it is all too often a destination of choice for corrupt wealth from around the world. The Pandora Papers provide yet more evidence of the ways in which dark money enters and washes through the UK, with devastating impacts for the integrity of our economy and property market.

The UK has previously built a reputation for championing anti-corruption efforts, showing leadership on beneficial ownership and extractive industry transparency. The current Government has also set out a vision for Global Britain in the Integrated Review which includes tackling illicit finance and economic crime, and its Presidency of the G7 has helped set the scene for the US led Summit for Democracy later in the year.

Robust domestic reforms will be critical for delivering this ambition. This will require high-level political commitment, sufficient resourcing, and the legislative space needed to bring about much-needed changes. Yet they will also bring significant rewards, facilitating simpler and more robust due diligence procedures for law-abiding British businesses and sending a strong message to the world that Global Britain offers no safe haven to the corrupt and the criminal.

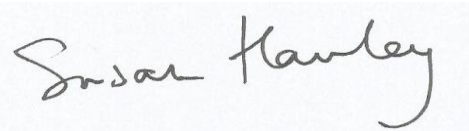
To this end, we urge you to ensure that the Government:

1. Fully delivers on commitments made in the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-2022, the Economic Crime Plan 2019-2022, and implements recommendations to ensure compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption;
2. Develops a new Anti-Corruption Strategy to begin in 2022;
3. Introduces robust and comprehensive legislation at the earliest possible opportunity to deliver long overdue reform to Companies House, the introduction of a property register, and reform to corporate liability laws; and

4. Allocates sufficient resourcing for the fight against corruption in the upcoming Spending Review, including for relevant law enforcement activities.
5. Implements the comprehensive and ambitious procurement reforms as laid out in the Cabinet Office's recent Green Paper on Transforming Procurement including transparency and open data by default throughout the commercial lifecycle, from planning through to procurement to spending on public contracts.

We wish to also direct you to *Fighting Corruption: An Agenda for 2021*, which outlines our key recommendations for tackling the risk of corruption both at home and abroad. We would be delighted to discuss the issues outlined in this letter in more detail, at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Hawley

Co-Chair of the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition



Eva van der Merwe

Co-Chair of the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition