

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS



9 May 2022

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you as chairs of the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition, which brings together the UK's leading organisations working on anti-corruption and public integrity, in your role as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Your leadership on ensuring that the UK has the highest ethical standards of public service is crucial to bolster British democracy at home and support Britain's leadership on the global stage, a task made all the more pressing in light of authoritarian attacks abroad.

We welcome the Government's intention, set out in its commitments to defend against authoritarianism at President Biden's Summit for Democracy, to use important independent reviews completed by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) and Nigel Boardman "to ensure that integrity systems within government are fit for purpose."

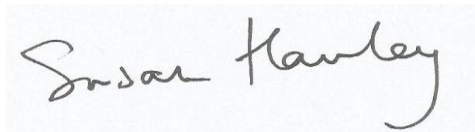
The Boardman Review into Supply Chain Finance was published in August 2021 and the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Upholding Standards in Public Life in November 2021. These reviews contained crucial recommendations about strengthening the independence and powers of standards regulators, ensuring greater transparency in lobbying, and managing conflicts of interest for those in public office. We note that both are still, unfortunately, awaiting a government response. We urge you in your role as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to lay out at the earliest opportunity an ambitious timetable for the implementation of their recommendations.

The measures outlined in the reviews are essential to bolster democracy at home and protect the UK's reputation as a beacon of integrity, impartiality and professionalism. They are also essential to enable the UK to lead on fighting corruption and authoritarianism on the international stage. As Lord Evans, Chair of CSPL, has put it "the UK's success in countering corruption abroad depends on our reputation for high ethical standards at home."

In January this year, the government committed in the introduction to its National Action Plan for Open Government (2021-2023) to begin a co-creation process with civil society to develop commitments on standards in public life and access to information. Within our Coalition we have experts on both these issues who are keen to engage with your officials to do this at the earliest opportunity. To date, we have yet to receive any indication of when this important work will begin.

We remain ready to engage with yourself and officials on these issues, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the reforms outlined above in further detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background, reading "Susan Hawley".

Susan Hawley
Co-Chair of UK Anti-Corruption Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light beige background, reading "Eva van der Merwe".

Eva van der Merwe
Co-Chair of UK Anti-Corruption Coalition

CC: John Penrose MP, The Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion