The Rt Hon Ben Gummer

Minister for the Cabinet Office

70 Whitehall

London

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3rd October 2016

Dear Minister

## Open government standards for Phase 4 review by the OECD Working Group on Bribery

The UK government has made great strides on developing an open government agenda and has committed to being the most transparent government in the world, and indeed in history. As a member of the Open Government Partnership, the UK government has also committed to developing “*a global culture of open government*.”

We are writing to you with regard to the upcoming Phase 4 review of the UK’s implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. The UK is among the first countries to be reviewed under Phase 4. It is therefore in an excellent position to lead by example and set high standards of transparency and open government for such reviews. By setting precedents for openness and transparency in its own review, the UK will help enhance the credibility and success of the Phase 4 review process.

In particular, we would recommend to the government that in order to meet open government standards for the Phase 4 review, the UK government should:

1. Ensure that the invitation to meet with the OECD review team for non-governmental actors is an open and transparent process, with public notification on the Cabinet Office website of the meetings;
2. Provide a publically available agenda of meetings with the review team including participants;
3. Commit to open meetings between the OECD review team and government departments so that at the very least interested non-governmental actors from civil society, the private sector and the media can attend (except where sensitive case material that is not in the public domain will be discussed);
4. Provide a copy of its written response to the OECD review team to civil society, lawyers, the private sector and other non-governmental actors (ideally having invited non-governmental actors to participate in and comment on the written response);
5. Commit to providing a copy of the draft report made by the OECD to non-governmental actors on a strictly embargoed basis for comment and additional input;
6. Invite governmental and non-governmental actors from countries affected by bribery by UK companies to provide an input into the Phase 4 review on UK enforcement and how it could be improved.

The OECD Working Group on Bribery has an enviable record for the rigorous and meticulous nature of its reviews. Improving implementation and enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is critical to the fight against corruption globally. We believe that transparency and openness in the Phase 4 review process will increase its effectiveness and enhance public confidence in the fight against corruption.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Chido Dunn and Rachel Davies

Chairs of the BOND Anti-Corruption Group

cc. Erick Pickles, Anti-Corruption Champion

Drago Kos, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery