



Department  
for International  
Development



Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State

Elisa Peter  
Executive Director  
Publish What You Pay International

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*Dear Elisa,*

Thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 28 April 2016 on the UK's Anti-Corruption Summit and trading of oil, gas and minerals. I believe you wrote to the Prime Minister as well as some other government departments and I am responding as the lead Minister for this issue.

The Summit was an important opportunity for world leaders, civil society and business to come together and agree practical action to expose corruption, punish its perpetrators, and drive out the culture of corruption. Nowhere is transparency more important than in the extractive industries. This is why the Summit sought to address remaining transparency gaps, including disclosure of payments to governments for the sale of oil, gas and minerals. The Government welcomes your hard work which has contributed to the positive outcomes seen at the Summit, with commitments from the UK, Switzerland and eleven other countries to enhance transparency in this area.

We recognise the economic significance of these payments to governments. The UK has an important role to play as one of the world's largest commodity trading hubs, to ensure that these sales become transparent, in order to prevent corruption, provide accountability, and ensure that the extracted wealth of nations benefits their populations, not corrupt elites.

Greater transparency around physical commodity trading will also build on broader progress made since our chairmanship of the G8 in 2013. The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with partners across HMG and internationally to raise standards of extractives transparency, build accountability and strengthen governance of a sector which dominates the economy in many DFID priority countries.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has led UK

implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Several of your organisations have made important contributions to the multi-stakeholder group which oversaw production of the UK's first EITI report published last month. This has brought valuable information into one place for the first time; delivered on our commitments to open government; bolstered UK credibility in getting our own house in order; and created a powerful demonstration effect encouraging other countries to make similar commitments. Early implementation of the EU Transparency and Accounting Directives led by the Treasury and BIS respectively, is another example of how the UK is leading a global drive to clean up a sector which has for too long been vulnerable to corruption.

As the Prime Minister has stated, transparent economies are not an alternative to growth in the global economy, they are a fundamental condition for that growth. A common global standard for extractive sector transparency will create a level playing field for business, help citizens hold decision makers to account, and reduce the space for corruption. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this vital agenda.

I am copying this letter to the other nine signatories.

*Best wishes,*

*Justine*

**JUSTINE GREENING**