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From the Assistant Private Secretary

1 March 2017

Dear Mr Litvinoff

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you and the members of the Publish What You Pay anti-corruption coalition for your letter of 25 January, about payments to governments by oil, gas and mineral companies.

Improving transparency makes a critical contribution to fighting corruption, including through the support it provides to law enforcement.

I am sure you will be aware that the Congress has now voted in favour of repealing the regulation in the Dodd-Frank Act, requiring oil, gas and mineral companies that are publicly listed in the United States to publish their payments to governments.

The Government will continue to make the case for transparency, including with our partners in the United States. In doing so, we will build on our strong record of accomplishment in championing international action on transparency.

We promoted mandatory reporting by extractives companies as part of our 2013 G8 Presidency and were joined in the establishment of such rules by Canada, Norway and other members of the EU. The UK became an Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) candidate country in 2014. We are on track to publish our second EITI report in April 2017, and we will undergo the EITI validation process next summer.

The Government remains committed to this, and will continue to work with other jurisdictions around the world to raise global standards of transparency in the oil, gas and mineral sectors.

Yours sincerely

CLAIRE BRADSHAW

Mr Miles Litvinoff