

UK coalition members

ABColumbia
Action Aid
Amnesty International UK
Burma Campaign
CAFOD
Campaign Against Arms Trade
CARE International UK
Christian Aid
Ecumenical Council for Corporate
Responsibility
Engineers Against Poverty
Global Poverty Project
Global Witness
Natural Resource Governance
Institute
ONE
OpenCorporates
Open Knowledge Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Oxfam Great Britain
Progressio
Save the Children UK
Scottish Catholic International
Aid Fund
Tearfund
Transparency International UK
United Nations Association of
the UK
World Vision International

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

18 March 2015

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

**Industry guidance for the Reports on Payments to Governments
Regulations**

We are writing with urgency, deeply concerned that in the coming days the UK Government will welcome industry guidance containing two elements that undermine one of the signature achievements of this government – rules that will promote transparency for oil, gas and mining companies and help fight corruption.

If the UK Reports on Payments to Governments Regulations are implemented in accordance with the letter and spirit of the EU Directives, this could transform the way natural resources are managed for the benefit of low-income people in resource-dependent developing countries.

However, the industry guidance as it stands would open major loopholes for corrupt payments to be hidden, through introducing a lax interpretation of reporting obligations for joint ventures and encouraging project payments to be artificially aggregated.

Our organisations have raised these concerns with Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and have provided officials with legal opinion from Paul Lasok QC explaining how the guidance contradicts the legislation and is unlawful. Despite this evidence, the Department appears set to welcome the guidance.

This Government has been a world leader on transparency in recent years. It would be highly unfortunate to allow this guidance to undermine the UK's 2013 Lough Erne G8 legacy.

We urge you to ensure that the Government does not publicly welcome, support or endorse this industry guidance. Without assurances that the Government will not welcome or acknowledge the industry guidance, civil society intends to increase public campaigning against the guidance very shortly.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely



Diane Sheard
UK Director
ONE



Daniel Kaufmann
President
**Natural Resource Governance
Institute**

Brendan Cox
Director of Advocacy
Save the Children



Simon Taylor
Founder Director
Global Witness



Robert Barrington
Executive Director
Transparency International UK



Bishop Michael Doe
Chair of the Board
**Ecumenical Council for
Corporate Responsibility**



Anna Roberts
Executive Director
Burma Campaign UK



Chris Taggart
Chief Executive
OpenCorporates



Marinke van Riet
International Director
Publish What You Pay



Miles Litvinoff
Coordinator
Publish What You Pay UK
mlitvinoff@pwypuk.org
tel. 01442 825060
mob. 07984 720103