



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

4 February 2011

Dear Andrew,

I am writing to you raise my concerns about the further delay in the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 to which the Government admitted this week, and to urge you to immediately raise this issue with the Secretary of State for Justice and the Prime Minister.

As I am sure you are aware the Bribery Act, which was passed before the General Election with the support of all parties and following extensive consultation with businesses, was due to be implemented last October. It has already been delayed until April and this week we have learned it will be delayed yet further.

As we both know, where there is corruption, it has a devastating effect on developing countries and is a major obstacle to development, poverty alleviation and good governance. As you yourself underlined last year, this Act would have "put(s) beyond doubt the fact that bribery of foreign officials and office-holders by UK nationals constitutes corruption, and makes it punishable as such through the British courts".

Last October in a speech at the London School of Economics you set out your "100 per cent" support for the Act. Will you therefore reassure me that you will be raising this issue with the Secretary of State for Justice and with the Prime Minister to ensure that this legislation is brought in as soon as possible with clear timetable for its implementation?

Bribery devastates lives in the developing world and harms UK interests – the government must take action now.

*Harriet Harman MP*

Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP

Shadow Secretary of State for International Development and Shadow Deputy Prime Minister

Cc. Rt Hon. Vince Cable MP

Cc. Rt Hon Ken Clarke MP

Cc. Rt Hon David Cameron MP