Anti-corruption

Anti-corruption is the process of deterring and detecting corruption and making institutions accountable.

Corruption harms individuals, societies, economic development, and the environment, both in the UK and overseas. It undermines financial and social stability, weakens investor confidence and remains one of the major impediments to poverty alleviation, good governance and the fight against organised and serious crime.

Corruption threatens our national security, economic prosperity and our international standing. If left unchecked, it damages communities and undermines the integrity of both our public and private sector institutions. Prevention is better than cure. Once it has taken hold, corruption quickly erodes the effectiveness of institutions and systems.

Transparency is a proven means of deterring and detecting corruption and making institutions accountable, as well as helping improve the balance of power between public institutions and the citizens they are designed to serve. An open government is an essential element in combating corruption.

The challenge

To ensure that corruption in the UK is reduced, and that the UK plays no part in facilitating corruption overseas.

Corruption and criminal activity thrives under conditions of secrecy. Investments in the UK can hide the proceeds of illegal activity such as money laundering, bribery and embezzlement.

The UK needs to protect UK institutions against corruption risk, by ensuring that all public bodies and service providers are open, transparent and accountable. Public trust in government should be built through further transparency over the decision making processes that impact upon public policy. This would help citizens hold their representatives and public officials to account, increasing confidence and participation in the UK political system.

The outcome

By 2018, we want citizens, governments, industry and civil society to be mobilised in the fight against corruption – with individuals possessing the tools necessary to understand what corruption is and how it can be reported, while government ensures that information that can be used to combat corruption is made public wherever possible.