



NI Open Government Network  
89 Loopland Drive  
Belfast  
BT6 9DW  
Tel: 028 90 455770

20<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Party Leader

I am writing on behalf of the [NI Open Government Network](#).

The NI Open Government Network (OGN) is an alliance of individual citizens and representatives of community and voluntary sector organisations aiming to contribute to delivering a more open, transparent and accountable government that will empower citizens to shape decisions that impact on their lives. Over the past year we have been working with government officials to help produce [open government commitments](#) which were agreed by the NI Executive for inclusion in the UK Action Plan.

I am writing to ask you to support full transparency on donations to political parties in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland citizens are the only people in the UK and Ireland who cannot see the names of the individuals and organisations that give large sums of money to their political parties. And full transparency on donations and loans to political parties is fundamental to correcting this democratic deficit. The upcoming election provides an opportunity for you to meet your democratic obligations to citizens here.

We acknowledge that the Alliance Party and the Green Party already publish donor information on their respective websites.

Ahead of the upcoming election: **Are you prepared to write to the Secretary of State asking him to introduce compulsory transparency on political party donations?**

Alternatively: **Will you unilaterally and immediately commit to making political party donations transparent on a voluntary basis?**

We will publish this open letter and your response on our website.

The NI Open Government Network would also like your support on the opening of ministerial diaries and the introduction of a lobbying register for Northern Ireland. There is no better time to embrace transparency and accountability.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colm Burns'.

Colm Burns  
Chair of the Northern Ireland Open Government Network