

21 October 2005



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Dear Consultee,

INTERIM RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION CONDUCTED MARCH-JUNE 2005 CONCERNING CHANGES INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 2004 TO ECGD'S STANDARD DOCUMENTS RELATING TO BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

As you are aware, ECGD'S consultation on changes introduced in December 2004 to its anti-bribery and corruption procedures closed on 18 June this year. The Department is grateful to all those who submitted representations.

The representations received during the initial consultation period, which ended on 18 June 2005, showed clearly that interested parties had detailed and wide-ranging views. After carefully considering these, ECGD has reached a settled view on the appropriate underlying principles. On the key specific issues covered by the consultation, ECGD has identified certain provisional conclusions on which it is inviting comment from interested parties during a further round of consultation.

An Interim Response to this consultation is attached for your consideration. Also attached to this letter are copies of the draft documentation ECGD uses to underwrite business, reflecting the proposed amendments, and a draft Final Regulatory Impact Assessment which sets out what ECGD believes to be the likely costs and benefits of its proposed changes as compared to the procedures in place in May or December 2004. These supporting documents are drafted to reflect the provisional conclusions set out in the Interim Response itself.

The closing date for representations to this further consultation is 18 November 2005. Details of how to respond can be found in paragraph 68 of the Interim Response document.

After taking account of any further representations received, it is intended that a final Government Response should be published by the end of this year.

BEN LLEWELLYN