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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 August 2017

Thank you for your letter of 24 July seeking a response to the previous Chair of the Treasury Committee's letter of 11 April, which asked for information on on-going Cabinet Office work on Economic Crime.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review committed to making the UK a more hostile place for individuals seeking to use, move and hide the proceeds of crime and corruption, and to reduce sanctions evasion. Building on existing work to strengthen the UK's response to economic crime, such as the Criminal Finances Act 2017, I have asked the Cabinet Office to examine the UK's response to economic crime more broadly.

The Cabinet Office work was announced on 5 December 2016, when the Home Secretary stated at Oral Questions that, "the Cabinet Office will look at the UK's response to economic crime more broadly. This will include looking at the effectiveness of our organisational framework and the capabilities, resources and powers available to the organisations that tackle economic crime".

The project has looked at the largest UK agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of high value or complex economic crime: the National Crime Agency; City of London Police; Serious Fraud Office; Financial Conduct Authority; Competition and Markets Authority; relevant functions of HMRC in relation to money laundering; and the Crown Prosecution Service.

I expect officials to deliver internal advice to Ministers by the end of the summer. Any decisions made by Ministers subsequently, based on that advice, will be subject to public scrutiny in the usual way. In the course of this work, officials have consulted non-governmental organisations, academics, members of the financial services industry, and the agencies themselves.

I hope that you will find this explanation of the terms of reference of the Cabinet Office's work in this area helpful.

The Right Honourable Nicky Morgan MP