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30 June 2022

Minh Alexander

Email: [minhalexander@aol.com](mailto:minhalexander@aol.com)

Dear Dr Alexander,

Thank you for your email of 30th May, regarding whistleblowing and the Economic Crime Bill (ECB). As I hope you will appreciate, the Minister receives significant volumes of correspondence on a daily basis, and, regrettably, is unable to respond to each one personally. Therefore, I have been asked to respond on their behalf.

Thank you for sharing your views on whistleblowing reform. The Government recognises how valuable it is that whistleblowers are prepared to shine a light on wrongdoing and believes that they should be able to do so without fear of recriminations. The Employment Rights Act 1996, amended by the PIDA, gives legal protection to those who speak up in the public interest. The legislation is intended to build openness and trust in workplaces by ensuring that workers who hold their employers to account are treated fairly.

The Government has made improvements to the whistleblowing framework, to make it more robust and increase support for whistleblowers. A number of statutory and non-statutory improvements have been made. This includes guidance for whistleblowers on how to make disclosures while preserving their employment protections; and guidance for employers including a non-statutory code of practice. We have added student nurses and student midwives into the scope of the legislation and introduced whistleblowing protections for job applicants in the health sector. We also keep the Prescribed Persons list up to date and review this regularly.

The Government has committed to review the whistleblowing framework, it would be right and proper to do so once we have had sufficient time to build the necessary evidence of impact of the most recent reforms. We will, of course, give due consideration to a wide range of civil society views and will evaluate any proposals on their merits. We understand you were previously in contact with Mr Penrose on the Economic Crime Bill and would also refer you to his response.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Wallace

## BEIS CORRESPONDENCE UNIT