
UK Anti-Corruption Champion visits British Virgin Islands to Assess Progress on Financial Transparency

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The UK's Anti-Corruption Champion, Baroness Margaret Hodge, is arriving in the British Virgin Islands today (22 September) to assess progress in implementing commitments on beneficial ownership registers.

Speaking ahead of her meetings with government officials and financial and legal sector representatives, scheduled for 23 and 24 September, Baroness Hodge said:

"The UK is committed to transparency and the international fight against illicit finance. Public beneficial ownership registers are an essential tool that help us all follow the money so that we can expose corruption and money laundering."

"In today's global context, secret corporate structures are not just used to launder money. They are also used to undermine democracies, fund conflicts, and engage in human rights abuses and terrorism. So transparency is vital for us all and we

share responsibility for ensuring we promote it.

“This visit is an opportunity to engage constructively with leaders and stakeholders in the British Virgin Islands to better understand the challenges they perceive in implementing beneficial ownership registers.

“I look forward to open, collaborative discussions that support our common goal of strengthening financial transparency.”

In November 2024, the British Virgin Islands joined the other UK Overseas Territories in committing to implement beneficial ownership registers with legitimate interest access by June 2025, as part of the UK’s efforts to enhance corporate transparency. While commitments have been made, concerns remain about the pace of progress towards implementing registers that meet the UK’s minimum requirements.

During her visit, Baroness Hodge will assess the progress and challenges in implementing transparent registers in the BVI. She will make recommendations on the required next steps to the UK’s Minister of State for the Overseas Territories, Stephen Doughty, who oversees the UK’s engagement with BVI on matters including governance and transparency.

Minister Doughty will consider Baroness Hodge’s findings following the visit.

Notes to editors

- A biography of Baroness Hodge is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/margaret-hodge>

- A Written Ministerial Statement published by Minister Doughty on the implementation of publicly accessible registers of beneficial ownership in the Overseas Territories is available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-07-03/hcws774>

For Additional Information Contact:

Mr. Eusa Z. Adams
Communications Officer II
Office of the Deputy Governor
Governor's Group
Constitutionally Established Departments
Telephone: 1-284-468-2219/3000
Email: eadams@gov.vg