UK Anti-Corruption Coalition

Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

19 November 2026

On the steps of Downing Street, you committed to making politics more collaborative and to putting the right values and standards at the heart of government.

As you develop your ten-year plan for Britain, we urge you to within it lay out a clear agenda that ensures that standards and public service are the hallmark of public office wherever it is held. Accountability, transparency and integrity must be at the core of rewiring the state and the devolution agenda.

Trust in government is at historically low levels in the UK and lower than in comparable OECD jurisdictions. Restoring that trust requires better policies and that those policies and decisions are made fairly and with integrity.

Voters in the US and other countries have demonstrated that it matters to them when their politicians are perceived to act out of self-interest. People are unlikely to feel power has been returned to them when government policy is swayed by those with more financial power and privileged access, and when conflicts of interest run rampant with no meaningful accountability.

The UK's infrastructure for preventing corruption and upholding integrity is deeply fragile and in some areas not fit for purpose in a modern democracy. Your government has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that cleans up politics for good.

## We ask that the ten-year plan commit to a programme of reform in five areas, with clear milestones for delivery:

### 1. Make Parliament a beacon of integrity.

We urge the government to lay out a plan for how it will deliver Labour's manifesto commitment to limit MPs' second jobs; strengthen rules to prevent a 'freebie' and hospitality culture in Westminster, including trips funded by foreign governments; and lower financial reporting thresholds for MPs and Peers in line with devolved assemblies. The plan should also take immediate steps to end the political patronage in the appointment of peers, ensuring robust new powers for the House of Lords Appointments Commission; and introduce tougher rules to prevent Peers engaging in paid advocacy.

### 2. Have genuinely open government with fair access to decision-makers

The plan should outline how the government will deliver the Ethics and Integrity Commission's recommendations to upgrade the UK's lobbying transparency regime with a comprehensive transparency register and requirement for all lobbying to be registered. The government should look to expand this transparency to frontbench opposition parties to ensure that the lobbying behind all party policy making is fully transparent. But it should go further and embed equitable access to decision-makers for civil society and communities to prevent policy capture.

## 3. Build an ethics landscape fit for the future

Building on the Hillsborough law and the government's standards reforms, the plan should ensure that elected politicians are subject to statutory codes of conduct overseen by statutory regulators in the same way that other public officials are. That means ensuring strong statutory codes of conduct for local elected officials, mayors, and for ministers. And it means putting standards regulators such as the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards and the Ethics and Integrity Commission on a statutory footing.

## 4. Develop a political finance regime that restores trust in politics

We urge the government to commit to introducing a donation cap. The government has promised to tackle mega-donations through its task and finish group, but a longer-term solution to financing political parties must be developed to accompany electoral reform. This should look at models from other countries, where a complete ban on entities donating, increased public funding, and low caps have helped ensure stronger faith in democracy. It should also commit to simplify electoral law so that it is cheaper and easier to comply with and to enforce.

## 5. Ensure that public decisions are made in the public interest

We urge the government to strengthen safeguards against conflicts of interest, undue influence and the revolving door between public office and private interests. As greater powers over public spending, investment and essential services are devolved, these safeguards must extend across all levels of government. The plan should commit to enforceable restrictions on post-public employment and lobbying, greater transparency around interests and public appointments, and robust independent scrutiny of procurement and major spending decisions. Devolving power must be accompanied by accountability arrangements that ensure it is exercised transparently and in the interests of the communities it is intended to serve.

The plan should establish a clear ambition to rebuild public trust through stronger standards, transparency and accountability, supported by a programme of reform with measurable milestones.

The UK Anti-Corruption Coalition brings together organisations with deep expertise, relevant evidence and a strong track record of developing and advancing reforms across these areas. We would welcome a discussion to share this expertise and offer practical, evidence-based recommendations on how these commitments could be reflected in its final text and delivery programme.

Yours sincerely,



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Co-Chair, UK Anti-Corruption Coalition
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**On behalf of the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition**