



# Anti-Corruption Focus

## April 2015

### Transparency International UK's Quarterly Newsletter

[www.transparency.org.uk](http://www.transparency.org.uk)

In this edition...

- 2015 Defence Companies Anti-Corruption Index
- Call for Lawyers
- New Report: Corruption on Your Doorstep
- News from the TI Movement



## Latest News

You can keep up to date with the latest corruption news by visiting the TI-UK Newsroom:

[www.transparency.org.uk/news-room](http://www.transparency.org.uk/news-room)

or by signing up for TI's [Daily Corruption News](#)



### General Election 2015 – a wasted vote or a chance for change?

In the run-up to the 2015 General Election TI-UK assess the current voting trends along with the need to demand more accountability and transparency from those in power. [Read more...](#)



### How corrupt is Britain?

After receiving criticism from [George Monbiot in The Guardian's Comment is Free](#), TI-UK discusses corruption in the UK and the various tools TI employs to measure corruption despite the challenges. [Read more...](#)



### Police corruption – a very British problem?

Following the Cyril Smith allegations, TI-UK reflects on past allegations of corruption directed at the police force. TI-UK also discusses what can be done to combat corruption such as supporting whistleblowers. [Read more...](#)



### The case for ending offshore corporate secrecy in the UK property market

Following the release of [Corruption on your doorstep - How corrupt capital is used to buy property in the UK](#) TI-UK looks at money laundering in the UK property market and how to put an end to it. [Read more...](#)



### HSBC and tax: when is the tipping point?

In the wake of the latest banking scandal involving HSBC's tax avoidance scheme, TI-UK asks how many scandals at how many institutions does it take to describe an industry as systemically corrupt? [Read more...](#)



### Is there a problem with lobbying?

Following the release of [Lifting the Lid on Lobbying: The Hidden Exercise of Power and Influence in the UK](#), TI-UK evaluates the role of lobbying in the UK, while advocating for greater transparency within the industry. [Read more...](#)

## Top Ten Stories

Our selection of ten interesting articles or reports about corruption published during the past quarter:

- 1 The Independent | [London's property boom built on dirty money](#)
- 2 The Financial Times | [Tax havens linked to London Property](#)
- 3 The Guardian | [UK properties held by offshore firms used in global corruption, say police](#)
- 4 The Guardian | [Straw and Rifkind deny wrongdoing amid 'cash for access' claims](#)
- 5 The New York Times | [British Property Secrecy Could Hide Crimes, Report Says](#)
- 6 The Financial Times | [HSBC, tax and why good companies do bad things](#)
- 7 Politics.co.uk | [How EvilCorps' lobbyists are making a mockery of us all](#)
- 8 BBC News | [Cyril Smith child abuse inquiry 'scrapped after his arrest'](#)
- 9 Reuters UK | [Corruption watchdog urges UK to curb hot-money flows into property](#)
- 10 The Independent | [Transparency International UK report lays bare the scandal of lobbyists](#)

## CALL FOR LAWYERS

TI-UK is looking for legal advice on libel – particularly with regard to communicating via social media platforms. If you have legal expertise in this area and would be happy to offer us some pro bono advice, please contact Claire – [Claire.prescott@transparency.org.uk](mailto:Claire.prescott@transparency.org.uk)

## Corruption on Your Doorstep: How Corrupt Capital is Used to Buy Property in the UK

Transparency International UK [launched its report](#) analysing money laundering through the UK property market titled [Corruption on your doorstep - How corrupt capital is used to buy property in the UK](#) on March 4th, alongside our microsite [ukunmaskthecorrupt.org](http://ukunmaskthecorrupt.org) and [petition](#) demanding an end to corrupt money in UK property.



The report analysed data from the Land Registry and Metropolitan Police revealing **36,342 London properties covering a total of 2.25 sq miles** are held by hidden companies registered in offshore havens.

The report's **main recommendation** called for transparency to be established over who owns the companies that own so much property in the UK through making such transparency a Land Registry requirement.

The interactive [microsite](#) presents a **visual story** of money laundering and includes an **interactive map** detailing the number of offshore-owned homes per London borough.

The petition [End Corrupt Money in UK Property](#) calls for the incoming **UK Government in May 2015** to hold overseas companies to the same standard of transparency by the **Land Registry** that are required of UK registered by **Companies House**.

## Open Governance Scorecard

On 31 March, TI-UK [launched](#) [How Open is the UK Government? UK Open Governance Scorecard Results](#), providing a comprehensive review of the UK's legal framework for transparency, participation and oversight. The research finds that the **UK's open governance regime is stronger in practice than in law**.

This scorecard **builds on the 'in-law' scorecard**, [published by TI-UK in March 2014](#), with an **'in-practice'** assessment. Together, **the report tests the UK against 459 research questions, across 35 standards of open governance**.



## TI-UK Programme News

At the start of March, **Katherine Dixon** officially joined **TI-UK's Defence & Security Programme** as its new Director. She will work alongside **Mark Pyman**, who has served as the Programme's director for more than 10 years, for three months before taking the helm at the start of June. Katherine has an extensive background in foreign policy and most recently served as the **Private Secretary to the UK Foreign Secretary**.



Our **Defence & Security Programme** will be releasing the new **2015 Defence Companies Anti-Corruption Index on Monday, 27 April**. The Index measures the transparency and quality of the ethics and anti-corruption programmes in the world's major defence companies. Please join us for a presentation of the results at **6 pm on Thursday, 30 April at the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright**. Register via [ci2015.eventbrite.co.uk](http://ci2015.eventbrite.co.uk) or by e-mailing [ivo.jongejan@transparency.org.uk](mailto:ivo.jongejan@transparency.org.uk).



## News from the TI Movement

**The TI Movement** launched the European wide lobbying report [Lobbying in Europe: Hidden Influence, Privileged Access](#) on 15 April 2015. The report is the first ever comprehensive assessment on lobbying in the region, studying how well political decision-making is protected from undue influence.

**Slovenia** scored highest with a result of **55%**, while **Hungary** and **Cyprus** tied for lowest with scores of **14%**. The **regional average** was **31%**

**The Movement** has also launched its [Corruption in Sport Initiative](#). The initiative aims to mobilise a wide range of individuals to fight against corruption by connecting the sports community to the wider, established movement against corruption. The initiative will be [publishing new analysis and commentary by experts](#) on a regular basis. You can follow the initiative using the hashtag [#sportintegrity](#)

**The TI Secretariat** published its report [Local Governance Integrity: Principles and Standards for Local Government Systems](#). The report is to provide clear guidance as to how to prevent corruption and deal with it when it occurs, focusing on the whole governance system, including citizens, civil society, the media, and the private sector.

Starting on **20 April**, **TI-Kenya** is running a public education campaign on [Radio Maisha](#) working to protect whistleblowers in the fight against corruption. The program is part of TI-Kenya's strong push to ensure that Kenya gets a whistle blower policy and law.

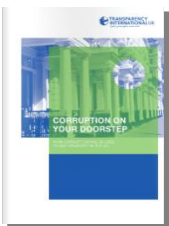
**TI Spain** and Convergencia Democrática de Cataluña (CDC) have [signed an agreement on transparency and corruption](#). The agreement agrees that all manifestos of the CDC will include a set of measures aimed at promoting transparency of the party as well as fighting corruption in Spain in the fields of politics, economics, and society.

## Recent Publications



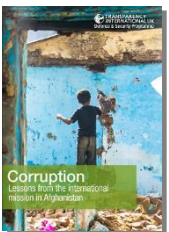
### How Open is the UK Government? UK Open Governance Scorecard Results (March 2015)

The UK Open Governance Scorecard provides a comprehensive review of the UK's legal framework for transparency, participation and oversight. Critically it also indicates how the system is working in practice. [Read and Download here](#)



### Corruption on Your Doorstep: How Corrupt Capital is Used to Buy Property in the UK (March 2015)

Corruption on your Doorstep looks at how corrupt money is used to buy property in the UK by analysing previously unreleased data from the Land Registry and Metropolitan Police. [Read and Download here](#)

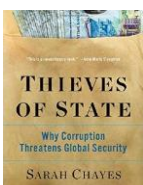


### Corruption: Lessons from the International Mission in Afghanistan (February 2015)

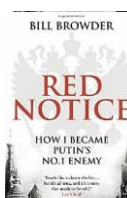
This report assesses how the international mission in Afghanistan was put at risk due to complacency on corruption. The report examines how and why corruption was addressed too slowly during the mission and calls for anti-corruption work to be at the forefront of future intervention and security assistance policy.

[Read and Download here](#)

## Recent Corruption Books



[Sarah Chayes: Thieves of State](#)



[Bill Browder: Red Notice](#)



[David Whyte: How Corrupt is Britain?](#)

## Dates for Your Diary

Full details of all our events, including external speaking engagements, can be found at [www.transparency.org.uk/news-room/events](http://www.transparency.org.uk/news-room/events)



### Date:

Evening  
30 April 2015

### Location:

*Norton Rose Fulbright  
3 More London Riverside  
SE1 2AQ*

[Details](#)

### Time / Date:

All Day  
09 December 2015

### Location:

*Clifford Chance  
10 Upper Bank Street  
E14 5JJ*

[Details](#)



## Take Action!

# SIGN THE PETITION

**Take action by joining our call for  
transparency over company  
ownership of UK property**

### Petition:

Join the 750+ people calling on the incoming UK Government in May 2015 to end corrupt money in UK property.

Sign up [here](#)

## Support TI-UK

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the fight against corruption. To keep abreast of TI-UK's perspective on developments through our news releases, blog posts and publications, please visit our website [www.transparency.org.uk](http://www.transparency.org.uk)

If you would like to become a member or supporter, or renew your existing membership, please contact Claire Prescott at [claire.prescott@transparency.org.uk](mailto:claire.prescott@transparency.org.uk) or on + 44 (0)20 7922 7906, or go online at <http://www.transparency.org.uk/get-involved/join-us>. We are particularly keen to recruit more Life Members, who make a donation of £1,000. Thank you for your support!