Business and Trade Committee

Tuesday, 1 September 2026

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
[by email]

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Subject: Illicit Finance Summit

I write to seek an update on the date for the proposed Illicit Finance Summit.

The Business and Trade Committee, through its Sub-Committee on Economic Security, Arms and Export Controls, is sharply focused on economic crime and the vulnerability of the UK economy to "dirty money". We scrutinise both Companies House and DBIST's Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation, amongst others, and were concerned to hear last year there are "undoubtedly" entities on the Companies House register being used as vehicles for sanctions evasion.[1]

Your predecessor decided to postpone the UK-hosted Illicit Finance Summit from June to December 2026.

There are now suggestions that a further delay is possible. **I would be grateful if you will confirm whether the Summit will go ahead as planned in December 2026.**

I understand that the Summit will review ways to strengthen global enforcement against illicit finance, tackling laundering in the property sector, misuse of crypto-assets, and trading in illicit gold. **I would be grateful for any further detail you can provide on attendance and subject focus.**

I would be grateful for a response by **15 September**.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair of the Business and Trade Committee

[1] Oral evidence taken before the Business and Trade Sub-Committee on Economic Security, Arms and Export Controls on 19 March 2025, Q14

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