

Implementation of the Bribery Act 2010**Background**

The Bribery Act 2010 received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010. It reforms the criminal law to provide a new, modern and comprehensive scheme of bribery offences that will enable courts and prosecutors to respond more effectively to bribery in the UK and overseas. Further details about the Act are published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/bribery-bill.htm>

The Act is expected to come into force in spring 2011. At this time, the Government intend to publish guidance about procedures that commercial organisations can put in place to prevent persons associated with them from bribing.

Consultation

On 14 September 2010, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Kenneth Clarke QC) announced the start of a consultation to support the Bribery Act 2010.

A copy of the full consultation paper “*Consultation on guidance about commercial organisations preventing bribery (Section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010)*” is available from the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

The consultation seeks views on draft guidance and proposes six general principles that are designed to be applicable across all sectors and for all types and size of business. It is intended that these general principles will aid businesses to formulate procedures appropriate to their particular circumstances should they choose to do so.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice is keen to ensure that the guidance is informed by the wealth of expertise currently available. As a result, a number of open discussion forums will be held across the UK during the consultation period to further encourage the sharing of views on what is being proposed. These forums will be taking place in the following locations:

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| • Thursday 30 September 2010 | 2pm – 4pm | Belfast |
| • Monday 4 October 2010 | 8.30am – 10am | London |
| • Tuesday 5 October 2010 | 2pm – 4pm | Birmingham |
| • Tuesday 12 October 2010 | 2pm – 4pm | Cardiff |
| • Monday 18 October 2010 | 2pm – 4pm | Edinburgh |

To receive details and register for a seminar, please email partners@justice.qsi.gov.uk

The consultation will provide the basis for the publication of effective but flexible guidance on bribery prevention for commercial organisations seeking to ensure that they conduct business competitively while maintaining high standards of integrity and transparency.

Further details about how to respond to the consultation can be found on the [Ministry of Justice website](#). The consultation closes at 5.00pm on Monday 8 November 2010.

This notice is for information purposes only and has no force in law. Please note that where legal advice is required exporters should make their own arrangements.

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