



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

10 May 2016

Hon. G. Wayne Panton  
Minister for Financial Services, Commerce and Environment  
Government Administration Building  
133 Elgin Avenue  
Grand Cayman

Initiative for the Automatic Exchange of Beneficial Ownership Information

Thank you for your letter of 6 May setting out the Cayman Islands' commitment to the recently launched initiative for the development and subsequent implementation of a new global standard for the exchange of beneficial ownership information.

I very much welcome your joining this initiative at this early stage. As you say, exchange of such information on a global basis will make a marked difference to the ability of law enforcement authorities to tackle the abuse of corporate structures and other arrangements as a cloak to criminal activities, including money laundering, illicit finance and tax evasion.

Cayman has taken a lead on global transparency as a cooperative jurisdiction, including through your early commitment to the Common Reporting Standard, your joining of the Multilateral Convention and the important role that you have played and continue to play in the Global Forum for Tax Transparency. This has been influential in helping achieve rapid global uptake of these standards and a step-change in global tax transparency.

I have asked my officials to ensure that arrangements are put in place so that the Cayman Islands, along with other committed jurisdictions, will be able to participate in discussions as the global standard is developed. It will be important, as you say, to ensure that the new standard respects the confidentiality and security of data and that appropriate legal gateways are in place. I also very much agree with your comments about the importance of a level playing field and hope that we can work together to convince all countries and jurisdictions to join this important initiative.

I hope that your Premier will be able to attend the Anti-Corruption Summit in London on 12 May which will provide an opportunity to set out how this initiative, together with the Common Reporting Standard and the other enhancements to global transparency arrangements, will make a real difference in tackling crime and corruption.

GEORGE OSBORNE