



# ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUP

## Annual Report

# 2016-2017

This Annual Report was researched and compiled by Central Lobby Consultants (CLC). It is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its Committees. All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses of Parliament with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the Group. © CLC 2017

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## Introduction



The Brexit negotiations and the EU (Withdrawal) Bill currently being considered in detail by MPs will have profound implications for British companies and, rightly, continues to dominate the UK political agenda. However business goes on and, as it does, it remains as important as ever that we consider what responsible business practice entails, share the best ideas on this and celebrate the achievements of companies that exemplify best practice.

Throughout 2016/2017 the APCRG has continued to discuss issues that matter to responsible businesses and we would like to express our thanks to all the guests who have given up their time over this period to speak at our meetings. A primary purpose of the Group is to enable members to learn from each other and we have certainly done that this year.

Once again we have been hugely impressed by what we have heard from MPs about the way responsible companies across the UK are working in their constituencies. The Group's Responsible Business Champions scheme has enabled nominating MPs to celebrate the achievements of decent businesses, large and small, across the land who are treating their employees, customers and suppliers well; working to reduce their environmental impact, and sharing ideas on responsible business practice with other companies. It has been truly inspiring to hear about the efforts companies make – in normal times and in emergency situations – to support the communities in which they operate; often going well beyond what could reasonably be expected of them. We are delighted that the Group's Responsible Business Champions scheme gives us an opportunity to salute this work. This year our normal timetable for nominations was interrupted by the general election, delaying our 2017 Responsible Business Champions reception (and this annual report).

As we look forward to 2018, we hope that many more APCRG Associate members will be nominated in 2018. We know that you exemplify responsible business practice and we hope that more of you will seek the nomination of your constituency MP next year. Don't be bashful! In the meantime, we are very pleased to pay tribute once again to our 2017 National Responsible Business Champion, Zurich Insurance, nominated by Justin Tomlinson MP; and the very close runner-up, Standard Life Aberdeen, whose excellent record received cross-party support from Ian Murray MP and Christine Jardine MP. It is the work of great companies, like these two APCRG members, who will help rebuild trust in business.



Sarah Newton MP, Sophie Timms (Zurich Insurance) Baroness Greengross, Jonathan Djanogly MP & Rhian Kelly (National Grid) in The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House on 22 November 2017

As we commend all the businesses, large and small, which made the short-list for the APCRG National Responsible Business Champion award 2017; we would also like put on record our grateful thanks to National Grid for sponsoring the Responsible Business Champions scheme from 2015 to 2017. We could not have developed the scheme so successfully without its generous support.

In closing, we would like to thank our fellow Officers – Lord Aberdare, Alex Chalk MP, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote and Lord Stone of Blackheath – for their support, which is very much appreciated.

Jonathan Djanogly MP

Baroness Greengross

**APCRG Co-Chairs 2016-17**

## **Meetings held 2016-17**

### **The implications of Brexit for UK companies - November 2016**

Members discussed the implications of Brexit for UK companies with Barry Gardiner MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, on 30 November. Rt Hon Liam Fox MP, the Secretary of State for International Trade, was also due to speak at this meeting but had to withdraw at a late stage. Mr Gardiner set out the Labour Party's views on Brexit negotiations and responded to questions from a wide range of businesses about the likely impact of Brexit on the UK.

### **Integrating business creativity, innovation & sustainability – February 2017**

At the Group's first meeting in 2017, on 1 February, members discussed the importance of integrating business, creativity and innovation for sustainable businesses, as well as the wider benefits arising from this for the UK economy and society. The guest speakers were Dr Ruth McKernan, Chief Executive of Innovate UK; Jeremy Silver, Chief Executive of the Digital Catapult; and Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of Nesta.

### **Launching the 2017 Responsible Business Champions scheme - February 2017**

At the Group's meeting on 1 February, the Co-Chairs also launched the criteria against which MPs' Constituency Responsible Business Champion nominations would be considered for the 2017 National Responsible Business Champion award. Jonathan Djanogly MP announced that the criteria had been tweaked this year, mindful of the Government's commitment to reducing the disability employment gap, to emphasise the importance the Group attaches to supporting diversity and inclusion.

### **Business-Education Partnerships - March 2017**

At its spring meeting on 15 March the Group heard inspiring accounts of the work being done by responsible employers and others to encourage collaboration between businesses, schools and universities. Guest speakers, Mark Pickles and Taurai Horton of National Grid, spoke about the supported internship programme from which Taurai had benefited. Sophie Livingstone, CEO of City Year UK, spoke about their social action programme, as did Ashish Patel, one of their volunteers working with disadvantaged school children. Natalie Cramp, COO of the Career & Enterprise Company, spoke about their work and Sir Tim Wilson, Chair of Arden University, spoke about the hugely encouraging expansion of business-university collaboration in the UK.

### **Dissolution of Parliament & General Election – May/June 2017**

As a result of prorogation on 27 April, in advance of the Dissolution of Parliament for a snap general election on 8 June, the Group's planned meeting for May had to be postponed. The House of Commons returned briefly on 13 June to elect a Speaker for the new Parliament, but the Queen's Speech did not take place until 21 June as extensive negotiations took place between the Conservative Party and the DUP to determine whether Theresa May could lead a

new Government given that the Conservative Party no longer holds a majority of seats in the House of Commons.

### **AGM/Reconstitution meeting – July 2017**

The APCRG brought forward the AGM, due to be held in October, to 4 July so that the Group could be reconstituted as early as possible in the new Parliament. The Parliamentary members conducted the formal business and discussed the Group's forward programme. Members re-elected the Group's Officers with one change: Alex Chalk MP replaces Flick Drummond as a Vice-Chair. Flick Drummond, whose support for the Group was much appreciated, lost her Portsmouth South seat in the general election.

### **Government, Business & Corruption – July 2017**

On 19 July the Co-Chairs were delighted to welcome David Green, the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, and Duncan Hames, Director of Policy at Transparency International UK, to lead a discussion about Government, business and corruption. We were also very pleased that Paul Sapin, the director of the award-winning [documentary](#), *A Very Sicilian Justice*, was able to be with us to present a - specially edited for us - short version of the documentary about the work of the prosecuting Magistrate, Dr Antonio Di Matteo, who is leading action against the mafia in Italy.



Jonathan Djanogly MP, David Green QC, Paul Sapin, Baroness Greengross & Duncan Hames

### **Realising the Potential of Older Workers – October**

The Group met on 18 October to discuss the importance of age-friendly businesses and lifelong learning in order to realise the full potential of older workers. The guest speakers were: Dr Michael Hodin, Chief Executive of the Global Coalition on Aging; Shaun Crawford, a Partner and Global Insurance Leader at Ernst & Young LLP, who is also a member of the BITC Age at Work Leadership Team; and Peter Mayhew-Smith, Chief Executive of the South Thames College Group, who had led an inquiry into lifelong learning for an ageing workforce.

## Responsible Business Champions reception - November 2017

Given the 2017 general election, the Officers decided to extend the deadline for MPs Constituency Responsible Business Champion nominations until 5 October, enabling newly elected MPs to nominate a Constituency Champion. As a result, the Group's Responsible Business Champions reception was postponed from July until 22 November, when Sarah Newton MP, the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work was our guest of honour.

APCRG Co-Chair, Baroness Greengross welcomed members and guests to the reception and thanked National Grid for sponsoring the Responsible Business Champions scheme for a third year. Rhian Kelly, Head of Public Affairs for National Grid, spoke briefly about the importance which National Grid attaches to responsible business practice and collaborative partnerships. APCRG Co-Chair, Jonathan Djanogly MP, then announced the decisions of the Parliamentary Judging Panel, commending some outstanding small businesses shortlisted for the national award - The Marbrook Centre, Maydencroft Ltd and Atkinson Building Contractors – as well as Heineken and Liberty House Group. The judges highly commended Anglian Water Services, Intu Properties Ltd and Marks and Spencer Basingstoke, Thanet Earth, nominated by Sir Roger Gale MP was third placed.

Jonathan said that in any other year, the runner-up, Standard Life Aberdeen, nominated by Ian Murray MP and Christine Jardine MP, might well have won. He commended its excellent record and said Edinburgh was fortunate to have such an exceptional company in its area. Jonathan then announced that Zurich Insurance was the unanimous choice of the judges as the 2017 National Responsible Business Champion award. The judges had particularly noted and applaud its work to improve support for disabled employees, including its work in support of the “Inspiring Young Disabled People’s Programme” and as a member of the Government’s “Disability Confident” Employer scheme.

Sarah Newton MP then presented the national award to Sophie Timms, Head of Media, Public Affairs and Corporate Responsibility for Zurich Insurance, nominated by Justin Tomlinson MP.



Baroness Greengross, Sarah Newton MP, Sophie Timms, Justin Tomlinson MP & Jonathan Djanogly MP

## Membership of the APCRG

### Officers:

**Co-Chairs:** Jonathan Djanogly MP and Baroness Greengross.

**Vice-Chairs:** Lord Aberdare, Alex Chalk MP, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote and Lord Stone of Blackheath.

### MPs:

Hannah Bardell, Paul Blomfield, Sir Peter Bottomley, Mrs Fiona Bruce, Ruth Cadbury, Alex Chalk, Rosie Cooper, Neil Coyle, Jonathan Djanogly, Nigel Evans, Stephen Hammond, Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Nick Hurd, Barbara Keeley, Seema Kennedy, David Lammy, Tim Loughton, Ian Lucas, Fiona Mactaggart, Madeleine Moon, Jessica Morden, Jamie Reed, Barry Sheerman, David Simpson, Jo Swinson and Gareth Thomas.

### Peers:

Lord Aberdare, Lord Alton of Liverpool, Baroness Andrews, Baroness Barker, Baroness Benjamin, Lord Bhatia, Baroness Blood, Lord Bourne, Lord Brennan, Baroness Brinton, Lord Browne of Madingley, Baroness Buscombe, Lord Butler of Brockwell, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lord Clement-Jones, Lord Cotter, Baroness Coussins, Baroness Cumberlege, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Deben, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Freeman, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Goudie, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, Baroness Greengross, Baroness Grey-Thompson, Lord Harrison of Chester, Lord Haskel, Lord Haskins, Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick, Baroness Hayman, Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, Baroness Hooper, Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Howarth of Newport, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, Lord Howell of Guildford, Lord Jones of Birmingham, Lord Jones of Cheltenham, Lord Judd, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, Lord Lucas of Crudwell & Dingwall, Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, Lord Mitchell, Lord Newby, Baroness Noakes, Baroness Northover, Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, Lord Paul, Baroness Pitkeathley, Baroness Prashar, Baroness Prosser, Lord Puttnam, Baroness Richardson of Calow, Lord Scriven, Lord Stevenson of Coddanham, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Lord Touhig, Baroness Uddin, Baroness Valentine, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Wheatcroft, Baroness Whitaker, Lord Williamson of Horton and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale.

### Associate members:

Aberdeen Asset Management, Allen and Overy LLP, Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, Anglian Water Ltd, ASDA Stores Ltd, Associated British Foods plc, Association of Accounting Technicians, AXA plc, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BBC, BBC Worldwide, British American Tobacco, BT plc. Camelot Group plc, Capita Group plc, Carillion plc, Carphone Warehouse, Centre for Business in Society, Coventry University Business School, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Cisco UK & Ireland, City of London Corporation, Clifford Chance LLP, Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited, CSC Computer Sciences Ltd, Direct Line Group, Direct

Marketing Association, DJ Hutchings Ltd, E.ON UK, Financial Reporting Council, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Fujitsu UK, Gentoo Green Group Ltd, Grant Thornton LLP, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd, Hogan Lovells LLP, Home Instead Senior Care Limited, Imperial Tobacco Group plc, Institute of Business Ethics, Interserve, Intu Properties plc, JD Williams, KYOCERA Document Solutions Ltd, John Lewis Partnership, Johnson Matthey, JTI, Kingfisher Ltd, KPMG LLP, Leeds Beckett University, Legal & General Group plc, Liberty International plc, Linklaters LLP, Lloyd's, London City Airport, Manchester Airport plc, Marks and Spencer plc, MITIE, MyLotto24 Limited, National Grid, N. Brown Group, Nestle UK, Northumbrian Water Ltd, Olswang LLP, One Hundred, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Provident Financial plc, RBS, Reed Elsevier, RS Collaboration, Royal Holloway University of London, Santander UK, Shamwari Capital, Simply Sustainable, Standard Life plc, Thales Holdings UK plc, The Crown Estate, The Heaven Company, Unipart Group Ltd, United Utilities Group plc, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Warburtons Ltd, Whitbread, WPP, White & Case LLP, Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation and Zurich Insurance plc.

### **Subscriber members:**

Carnstone Partners LLP, Diageo plc, Nottingham University and Pirelli Tyres Ltd.

### **Finance and Registration**

The Group is officially registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and it is on the Approved List as a recognised All-Party Parliamentary Group. Further information about the Group is available on our website at: [www.apcrg.org.uk](http://www.apcrg.org.uk)