



Department for
International Trade

George Hollingbery MP

Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

Our ref:

8 January 2018

Dear Angus,

Initial Assessment by the UK National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: Association des Habitants de Ndogpassi I, II et III [NDOGPASSI I, II AND II Residents' Association] (AHN) and Cercle de Bon Voisinage de Logmayangui [Logmayangui Good Neighbours' Circle] (CBVL) against Victoria Oil & Gas plc (VOG)

I am writing to tell you that I am placing into the House Libraries today copies of a new Initial Assessment by the UK National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the Guidelines). This meets the commitment in the UK NCP's published procedures to make its statements available to Parliament. The Initial Assessment will also be published today on the NCP webpage at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-national-contact-point-statements>.

In February 2018, the UK NCP received a complaint made by the Association des Habitants de Ndogpassi I, II et III [Ndogpassi I, II AND II Residents' Association] (AHN) and Cercle de Bon Voisinage de Logmayangui [Logmayangui Good Neighbours' Circle] (CBVL). The complaint relates to commercial business and industrial activity activities conducted by the company Victoria Oil and Gas plc. It alleges breaches of general policies, disclosure, human rights, employment and environment under the Guidelines. The UK NCP examined the complaint and concluded that there were grounds for a further examination of the complaint.

The Initial Assessment process is to determine whether the issues raised merit further examination. It does not determine whether the company has or has not acted consistently with the Guidelines. The UK NCP will now approach both parties to determine whether they

are willing to engage in a mediation process, with the aim of agreeing how the issues identified can be successfully addressed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mr. George Hollingbery". The signature is stylized and includes a large, decorative flourish at the end.

GEORGE HOLLINGBERY MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy
Department for International Trade