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Dear Liam,

Final Statement by the UK National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: a complaint against a UK based company raised by former employees of a company based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The UK's National Contact Point (UK NCP) is an independent unit within the Department for Business and Trade. It is responsible for promoting the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (OECD Guidelines) and managing a non-judicial grievance mechanism to resolve complaints through mediation. The Guidelines were established in 1976 as part of the OECD Investment Declaration and were revised in 2023.

As the Minister with oversight of the UK NCP, I am placing into the House Libraries today, alongside this letter, copies of a new Final Statement published by the UK National Contact Point (NCP). This meets the commitment in the UK NCP's procedures to make its statements available to Parliament. The Final Statement will be published on 3 May 2024 on the UK NCP page of gov.uk.

This Final Statement concerns a complaint made in August 2021 by former employees of a company based in the DRC that has a business relationship with a UK based company. The complaint relates to alleged breaches of general policies, human rights, employment environment and combating bribery and extortion under the OECD Guidelines. The UK NCP examined the complaint and concluded that the complaint should proceed to mediation. The parties reached a successful mediation outcome. The UK NCP has not named the parties to the complaint in this case as it was agreed in the mediation Terms of Reference that if a successful mediation outcome was reached, the UK NCP would not name the parties in its report.

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Department for Business and Trade