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Damian Hinds MP
Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Dear Minister

Thank you again for speaking at this year's Charity Tax Group Conference. We had very positive feedback from our members, who always value the opportunity to hear directly from the Charity Tax Minister. We hope that you found it useful too and look forward to continued co-operation and consultation going forward.

We are also really grateful for your support for the online Charity Tax Map. We strongly believe that this will be a major asset for the sector.

We would like to thank you and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury for listening to and understanding our reasons for requesting exemption for charities from the 45% restitution tax. We would also like to thank your officials Susan Gardner and Angela Morton for their time and courtesy during our meetings.

We appreciated your confirmation that the Government will be reviewing the connected charities rules relating to the Apprenticeship Levy, following representations from CTG and others. As you suggested, we have now established contact with the relevant team at BIS and will be working with them to ensure that the levy is implemented in a way that maximises the ability of charities to use it. Allowing charities to allocate their levy contributions to volunteer expenses or training would certainly help and we hope that the Government gives this serious consideration. If not, the levy risks simply becoming another payroll tax for charities.

Your confirmation that mandatory charity business rates relief is to be protected, was also very welcome, as was your commitment that the Government would be working closely with the sector on Gift Aid reform initiatives.

We are also working closely with your officials to ensure that charities do not face an onerous and disproportionate administrative burden because of the new Common Reporting Standard.

The EU VAT Action Plan presents some interesting proposals for reform, but it is critically important that the invaluable zero rates that charities rely on are protected, and we urge the Government to provide assurances on this point.

I would really welcome the opportunity to meet you again to discuss these issues in greater detail. We would also be very happy to provide additional briefing for you and your team on these and other important issues.


John Henning
CTG Chairman