



CCAB Press Release

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Driving out bribery and corruption is a global mission, say professional accountancy bodies CCAB and IFAC comment ahead of the first global anti-corruption summit

Global action needs to be taken to counter bribery and corruption in the UK and on the global stage, say the major professional accountancy bodies in the UK and Ireland, with IFAC's President Olivia F Kirtley adding strong support to their statement.

The call for action from CCAB's five members - ICAEW, ACCA, CIPFA, ICAS and Chartered Accountants Ireland – and IFAC comes alongside the first anti-corruption summit in London on the 12 May 2016.

Welcoming the summit's aims to step up global action to "expose, punish and drive out corruption in all walks of life", CCAB members with other professional bodies such as the Law Society, have joined together to say in a collective statement that the accountancy profession is committed to the fight against corruption in all its forms.

Anthony Harbinson FCCA, chair of CCAB's Anti Money Laundering Task Force and Director of Safer Communities, Northern Ireland Department of Justice, said: "Sharing knowledge, skills and intelligence with our fellow professionals and with all agencies fighting for this cause is an important step in the summit's aims to drive out corruption.

"It is therefore important that there is a cohesive and comprehensive agreement across the professions to counter bribery and corruption. Accountants are often the first line of defence in tackling these deplorable activities that are threats to economies, especially emerging economies - and also to public trust. Ultimately, bribery and corruption is harmful – to business, to society and to individuals.

Welcoming the joint statement, IFAC President Olivia F. Kirtley said: "Defeating corruption—and thus immeasurably improving the lives of citizens—can only be achieved through re-energized collaboration between, and commitment of, leaders from both the public and private sectors. Both sectors require transparent, consistent and robust anti-corruption measures, and effective internal controls that are critical to good governance and holding officials accountable. A greater focus on strong governance and compliance structures will help cultivate self-reporting cultures that empower individuals to do the right thing."

Anthony Harbinson concludes: “Silos need to be broken down to tackle bribery and corruption – experts from a wide range of professions including accountants, lawyers, the police and policy makers for example, need to all pull together to smash criminal networks and work with governments and NGOs to say bribery, corruption, tax-evasion, money laundering and the financing of international crime and terrorism is unacceptable.”

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Notes to Editors

1. The combined membership of the five CCAB bodies - ICAEW, ACCA, ICAS, CIPFA and Chartered Accountants Ireland - amounts to 245,000 professional accountants in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (354,000 worldwide).
2. CCAB provides a forum for the bodies to work together collectively in the public interest on matters affecting the profession and the wider economy.
3. CCAB’s credibility stems from its insight into all areas of finance and accounting, from finance director and audit partner to management accountants, professional advisers, public sector finance leaders and entrepreneurs. CCAB’s members work through the financial value chain in all sectors as key decision makers and business leaders within the UK and around the world.