

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Guardrails or Handcuffs? The ECCTA and the Future of UK Enterprise

Is the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) a Catalyst for Governance Excellence — or a Roadblock to UK Economic Growth?

LONDON (Tuesday, May 13): As the UK wrestles with its post-Brexit identity, the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) is redrawing the lines of corporate conduct. It represents the most significant shake-up in corporate governance for decades. But as the government flexes its regulatory muscle, business leaders are asking: *Are these guardrails protecting UK plc — or shackling its growth?*

With the pound under pressure, tariffs disrupting trade flows, and global investors assessing the ease of doing business in Britain, the ECCTA's strict new demands raise hard questions. Can the UK realistically grow its economy under the weight of ever-tightening compliance regimes? Or is this the kind of robust governance that builds long-term credibility — at the cost of short-term competitiveness?

On **20th May**, **Beyond Governance** will bring together senior executives, governance leaders, and regulators at a pivotal in-person summit in London: ***Governance Under Pressure: Navigating the ECCTA with Confidence***. The event will unpack the profound implications of the Act and examine whether the UK's regulatory zeal is fostering resilience or stifling enterprise.

"The ECCTA fundamentally redefines corporate responsibility," said **Erika Eliasson-Norris**, CEO of Beyond Governance and Assessor to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry. "It's not just about checking boxes. Directors must now be identity-verified. Data filings are under intense scrutiny. Governance isn't advisory — it's existential."

The Act equips **Companies House** with unprecedented powers to strike off misleading data and challenge suspect filings. Prosecutors can go further — holding senior managers personally liable for corporate wrongdoing. The message is clear: directorship is no longer a title; it's a mandate for accountability.

But while governance reform is laudable, critics point to a mounting regulatory burden at odds with the government's own growth agenda. In a global landscape where competitors are streamlining bureaucracy to attract capital, some fear the UK is tying its own hands — at a time it can least afford to.

Is this bold policymaking fit for a global Britain, or a symptom of political overcorrection? Could well-meaning reform inadvertently deter innovation, inward investment, and entrepreneurial dynamism?

This exclusive event — held under **Chatham House Rules** and eligible for **CPD accreditation** — will feature insights from **Companies House** and leading governance practitioners. Delegates will gain not only practical tools for compliance, but also a forum to debate what kind of governance future the UK should be building.

Members of the press are invited to attend by advance registration.

To request attendance or for media enquiries, please contact:

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Notes for media:

About Companies House Corporate Transparency and Register Reform: This UK government initiative details new measures under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA), aimed at tackling the misuse of corporate structures. It focuses on strengthening the role of Companies House as an active gatekeeper of reliable company data, enhancing identity verification, and improving the accuracy of the register.

Read more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/corporate-transparency-and-register-reform/corporate-transparency-and-register-reform-accessible-webpage>

About Erika Eliasson-Norris: Erika Eliasson-Norris is the Founder and CEO of Beyond Governance, a leading governance consultancy. She is one of two independent Assessors appointed to the UK Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, where she leads on Governance Assessment. A Chartered Governance Professional, Erika has held senior roles in FTSE companies and advises boards across sectors on governance, ethics, and leadership resilience.

About Beyond Governance: Beyond Governance is a multi award-winning full service consultancy. We collaborate with the c-suite, chairs, board, and investors to enhance stakeholder and shareholder confidence by unlocking value.

<https://beyondgovernance.com>