



Danny Alexander MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

4th August 2014

Dear Mr Alexander

I understand from recent press coverage that Her Majesty's Government has not achieved its expected recovery of taxes on undisclosed accounts under its agreement with Switzerland whereby Swiss banks promised to withhold taxes due by UK tax evaders.

My colleagues and I are not surprised by this failure. In October 2011 we published a report – enclosed – in which we outlined the shortcomings of the UK-Switzerland deal and expressed our scepticism about the entire political reasoning behind the deal.

In addition to outlining the specific loopholes in the original deal, we also set out a number of recommendations for how Her Majesty's Government should proceed with tackling the huge tax losses arising from undisclosed offshore accounts held by UK tax evaders.

The press has reported that the UK-Switzerland agreement is now under renegotiation. I should be grateful if you would confirm that this is the case and, if so, please also explain why it is deemed necessary to conduct these renegotiations in secret.

In the hope that the team currently renegotiating the agreement with Switzerland might pay attention to our original criticisms and recommendations, I have pleasure in enclosing our original report for your attention.

Yours faithfully

reply to:

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