



Molly Scott Cato, MEP for South West England and Gibraltar
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
Brussels

29 April 2016

Dear David Gauke,

Thank you for our continued correspondence on the issue of tax justice, for the open channels between Brussels and Westminster and for your commitment to tackling tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning.

I am contacting you once more because it has recently come to my attention that the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia has made available data from Switzerland to help block tax avoidance. The data contains information on Swiss bank account holders, and is essential in the fight against tax avoidance and banking secrecy. It covers more than twenty different countries, including the UK.

I understand that the Minister for Finance, Norbert Walter-Borjans, informed his equivalents in the countries listed, and consequently a large volume of data has been sent to the Treasury. It contains information on UK individuals and corporations with accounts in Switzerland, amounting to more than £7bn.

Can I therefore ask whether you have well received this data, and what your plans are to use this data? If it turns out that the accounts exposed in this data are used for tax avoidance purposes, will you be following up with the necessary fines and sanctions?

Thank you once again for your continued cooperation in the fight against tax avoidance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Molly Scott Cato".

Molly Scott Cato MEP