

24 July 2013

Dr Vince Cable MP - Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
Sir David Higgins - Chief Executive, Network Rail
Co-Chairs
Construction Leadership Council

Dear Dr Cable and Sir David,

I write to you as Co-Chairs of the Construction Leadership Council. The Council has been referred to and my role on it, in recently received correspondence from Stephen McPartland MP in connection with the corporation tax affairs of Laing O'Rourke. I therefore felt it would be courteous to share a copy of the correspondence with you.

I am not sure what prompted Mr McPartland to write to me, but Building Magazine has picked it up in a couple of articles and without carrying out any factual analysis, seem to infer some wrongdoing. The alleged wrongdoing seems only to be that Laing O'Rourke has an international business and international ownership structure. There has been no specific allegation of any failure to properly pay tax in the UK or elsewhere.

I have responded to Mr McPartland and I attach a copy of that response.

I am happy to discuss this and to answer any questions either of you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Stewart
Chief Executive

Encl. Copy of letter received from Mr Stephen McPartland MP
Copy of letter sent to Mr Stephen McPartland MP
UK Construction Industry: Taxation comparison chart – July 2013