

OPEN LETTER TO THE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTORS

Dear all,

As you know the Coalition government attaches a high priority to tackling the deficit and restoring confidence in the economy. I am sure you will agree that this is in the long term interest of the voluntary and community sector.

We have to make significant savings across all areas of Government; however as the Chancellor has said, the deficit reduction plan cannot just be about cuts. It must also be about finding better ways of doing things. We want to hear your thoughts on how this is best done. Your voice is particularly important as you work on the front line delivering services, often to the most vulnerable people. You also have a great deal of experience of engaging with the State and can see what is working and what can be done better.

We are working with colleagues across Government to ensure they consider the impact on the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors when making decisions that may affect it and to remind them of the importance of taking account of the Compact as savings and efficiencies are identified in their department. We are also working with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association to encourage Local Authorities to respect the Compact and work through the challenges in partnership with the local voluntary and community sector. In this context we are interested in examples of best practice that can be shared across the network.

We have asked our strategic partners and advisory body to gather information on the impact of cuts and where the biggest issues may arise and we urge you to work with your representative organisations to pass your examples of good practice and your ideas for savings and so on to the Office for Civil Society.

As of today you can e-mail sectorchallenge@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk to share information and thoughts with us, and we have created an open-space on the Cabinet Office website for you to post comments. You can access this at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.



Managing the deficit programme of this scale will be a challenge and difficult choices will have to be made. However, we want to hear your views and we will work in partnership with you to ensure your concerns, ideas for savings, and examples of best practice are taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS MAUDE

NICK HURD