

Trade Policy Unit

Leigh Dey & Co
For the attention of Mr Jamie Beagant
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Your ref JB/RS/NCP
Our ref 01.05.09.07/11P
01.05.09.07/13P

20 March 2009

Dear Mr Beagant

LEIGH DEY SUBMISSION ON 'GENERAL LESSONS'

Your letter of 26 February 2009 addressed to Dal Dio was circulated to the Steering Board in advance of the Steering Board meeting on 18 March. The Steering Board had time to discuss some of the issues raised in your letter and will hold further discussions at the next Steering Board meeting on 3 June. The Steering Board Secretariat and the NCP will work to facilitate this process.

Without prejudice to further Steering Board discussions, it may be helpful if I was to comment now on some of the issues raised in your letter.

Handling of complaints submitted to more than one NCP

NCPs considered this point at the OECD in October 2008. As a consequence, NCPs should be clearer on the need to decide which NCP should take the lead in a complaint and to cooperate and share information with NCPs with an interest in a complaint. For its part, the UK NCP will ensure that this happens. In this regard the Steering Board may wish to consider whether or not the NCP's published procedures should make this point.

Information obtained by the NCP from government departments and agencies

Current NCP practice when seeking views or information from government departments is to explain the reasons and the context for seeking this

Trade Policy Unit

information. The NCP will explain also that in order to take account of such information the NCP will share the details with the parties to the complaint.

Yours sincerely

Andy Weller

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