

Rt Hon Angela E Smith MP
Minister for the Third Sector
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

25th November 2009

Request for an independent investigation into Compact breach by the Office of the Third Sector

Dear Angela,

I am writing on behalf of Compact Voice about your recent decision to halt funding to the Campaign Research Programme. Compact Voice is concerned the decision was made without following Compact principles. This clearly has the potential to damage the reputation of the Office of the Third Sector, as the Government lead on the Compact and as champions of the Sector.

Compact Voice is the voice of the Sector on Compact issues. Working with OTS and the Commission we lead on the implementation of the Compact. I understand that difficult decisions often need to be made, and would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss the options prior to your decision to ensure that such a breach did not occur.

The Sector swiftly condemned this breach of the Compact, emphasising that breaching it cannot be taken lightly. I ask you to consider an investigation which should be immediate and independent and aim to provide clarity about (a) why such a decision was made so far into the process; (b) how a Compact breach could have been avoided; and (c) lessons learned for the future.

While not having formal powers of investigation at this time, the Commission for the Compact is well-placed to conduct such an investigation. They have both experience and understanding of the Compact, and are independent.

I look forward to hearing from you



Simon Blake
Chair of Compact Voice

Compact Voice

Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL

T: 020 7713 6161

F: 020 7713 6300

E: compact@compactvoice.org.uk

W: www.compactvoice.org.uk