



John Conway
Corporate Frameworks, Accountability & Governance Team
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
3rd Floor, Spur 2
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London, SW1H 0ET

By email: john.conway@bis.gsi.gov.uk

21 December 2015

Dear Sirs,

Re: BVCA response to consultation on de-regulatory changes for Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and Qualifying Partnerships

The British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (“BVCA”) is the industry body for the private equity and venture capital industry in the UK. With a membership of nearly 600 firms, the BVCA represents the vast majority of all UK based private equity and venture capital firms, as well as their professional advisers. This submission has been prepared by the BVCA’s Legal & Technical Committee, which represents the interests of BVCA members in legal, accounting and technical matters relevant to the private equity and venture capital industry.

Our members have invested over £30 billion in nearly 3,900 UK-based companies over the last five years. Companies backed by private equity and venture capital in the UK employ around 490,000 people and almost 90% of UK investments in 2014 were directed at small and medium-sized businesses. As major investors in private companies, and some public companies, our members have an interest in reporting matters, the conduct and information presented by such companies, and the burdens placed on the management of such companies.

We are writing in support of the proposals outlined in the November 2015 consultation document. BVCA members are significant users of both LLPs and limited partnerships, and we are supportive of the de-regulatory measures outlined in the consultation document and agree there should be alignment with the framework available to companies. We believe many of the LLPs and qualifying partnerships (QPs) which our members use will exceed the relevant size thresholds. However there may be occasions when an LLP or QP is not active and is able to benefit from these changes, and in such cases the proposed changes will eliminate some unnecessary burdens.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Witney', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Simon Witney
Chairman, BVCA Legal & Technical Committee