



Elodie Grant Goodey

Head of Societal Issues and Relationships

BP plc
1 St James Square
London SW1Y 4PD

Friday 19th September

Beata Faracik
Polish Institute for Human Rights and
Business

Danuta Przywara
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Friday 19th September 2014

Dear Mmes Faracik and Przywara,

Thank you for your letter of 5th September 2014 about our sponsorship of the first European Games in 2015, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

BP has a strong and long-standing commitment to Azerbaijan, which our sponsorship of the European Games reflects and reinforces. As you note in your letter, BP is engaged in Azerbaijan both economically and culturally. During our time in Azerbaijan, our projects and operations have realised many benefits for local communities by creating jobs, generating tax revenues, providing opportunities for local suppliers and supporting local community development initiatives.

We also have a strong and long-standing commitment to respecting the human rights and dignity of all people, wherever we do business. We take that commitment very seriously. We endeavour to act as a good corporate citizen in every country where we operate, not only because that is the right thing to do, but also because we believe that it makes good business sense for us to develop mutually-beneficial partnerships, built on trust and respect, with host governments, societies and neighbouring communities.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) are very clear in their circumscription of those responsibilities and obligations: it is the State's duty to protect human rights, the role of business to respect human rights and for both to provide access to effective remedy where breaches occur. We therefore believe that the government of Azerbaijan has the primary responsibility to protect human rights and we remain ready to implement their guidance in this regard. We recognise our responsibility to respect human rights and to avoid complicity in human rights abuses, as stated in the UNGPs. All our activities are in conformance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan which includes universal conventions and agreements on human rights. However, we do not believe that seeking to influence the policies of sovereign governments could be considered to be a part of our role as a sponsor of the European Games.

We remain open to constructive dialogue with any and all of the signatories of your letter on their respective concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles G. Smith", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.