

What's a responsible business? Try this list David Came...

Published: January 13, 2026, 3:39 am

The [Left Economic Advisory Panel](#) have reminded me that in [The Courageous State](#) there is a riposte to Mr Cameron to 'responsible business'. It's a 20-point charter setting out that "a good business":

- * Makes clear who it is so people know who they are dealing with
- * Makes clear who runs it
- * Makes clear who owns it
- * Makes clear the rules by which it is managed
- * Puts its accounts on public record if it enjoys limited liability, and does so wherever it is incorporated whether required to by law or not
- * Seeks to comply with all regulation that applies to it
- * Seeks to pay the right amount of tax due on the profits it makes in the place where they are really earned and at the time they really arise
- * Seeks to pay a living wage or more to all who work for it
- * Recognises trade union rights
- * Operates a fair pay policy so that the pay differential between the highest and lowest paid in the company cannot exceed an agreed ratio that should never exceed twenty
- * Makes fair pension provision for all employees
- * Does not discriminate between employers on the basis of race, nationality, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and similar such issues
- * Does not abuse the environment
- * Has a clear code of ethics that it publishes and is seen to uphold
- * Is transparent in its dealings with customers
- * Seeks at all times to minimise risk to those it deals with and takes all steps to ensure

they know what those risks are

- * Accepts responsibility for its failings and remedies them
- * Works in partnership with its suppliers and does not abuse them
- * Advertises responsibly
- * Creates and supplies products meeting real human need

I don't expect Cameron to be writing this charter into corporate law any time soon. But he should.