

## What is corruption?

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On May 12 the World Corruption Summit will take place in London. The Tax Justice Network conference, taking place today and tomorrow, is focussing on the issue of corruption, [which it defines as follows](#):

*Corruption is the abuse of public interest and the undermining of public confidence in the integrity of rules, systems and institutions that promote the public interest.*

This definition is broader than those offered by the likes of Transparency International, who suggest it is “[the misuse of entrusted power for private gain](#)” or the World Bank’s “[the abuse of public office for private gain](#)”. This is important. These very narrow definitions are themselves usually interpreted quite narrowly. What we need is a much broader perspective on this issue and in the context of May 12 this is vital: unless the definitions used are appropriate the outcomes of that conference will be inadequate.

*I confess I am not confident that the appropriate definition will be used, and would suggest that if it is not that will, in itself, be a form of corruption.*