



Press Statement:

13 August 2022

Defend Our Democracy welcomes the banning of Bain&Co from conducting business with the United Kingdom government

Defend Our Democracy applauds the efforts made by whistleblower Atholl Williams and Peter Hain in securing the ban on Bain&Co from conducting business with the government of the United Kingdom (UK).

In line with calls made by the [Helen Suzman Foundation](#), we equally call on the South African government to implement similar measures to prevent Bain&Co from engaging in business with government and State Owned Enterprises. We also call on the government to implement the recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture (Zondo Commission), particularly the implementation of a blacklist to ban companies from using the state as its patron for mass profit.

We agree with the UK government's assertion that the acts of Bain&Co were treasonous because their intentions to collapse the South African Revenue Services (SARS), resulted in significant harm to South Africa, our democracy and the ability of the state to collect sufficient revenue and provide for services. While we welcome that Bain&Co have since paid back monies unduly profited from their work at SARS, we believe that punitive measures must be put in place to correct their wrongs.

As the Defend our Democracy, we support calls made by the National Treasury acting Director General Ismail Momoniat, for private sector companies both locally and abroad to boycott business dealings with

Bain&Co. We hope that all government ministries and ambassadors across the board will also heed the call to boycott Bain&Co.

Equally, we must place similar pressure on banks and financial institutions implicated in the Zondo Commission to account for their role in state capture, and come correct.

As we have seen through the Zondo Commission, whistleblowers have been pivotal in the fight against corruption. We hope that Atholl Williams and other whistleblowers will receive the necessary protection and support for their sacrifice and fortitude.

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