

Preface

In March 2019, the House of Lords Independent Review into the UK Bribery Act 2010 stated that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially those exporting to new markets for the first time, ‘need more assistance in formulating their anti-bribery and corruption policies’. As anyone who has embarked on developing and implementing an anti-corruption compliance programme will know, it is a task that throws up some ticklish issues for organizations to address. These are even tougher for micro and small organizations to solve – given limited resources, lack of specialized knowledge and an endless morass of information and guidance on the internet. The UK government may decide to give more tailored guidance at some point in the future; meanwhile, however, companies not only in the UK but around the world have to grapple with the challenges of preventing bribery in their operations and business relationships.

This book sets out practical advice and ideas about how to create or improve an existing anti-corruption programme, with examples based on real cases and scenarios, some of which have been sanitized or derived from a combination of several cases. These illustrate ways to mitigate your risks without reducing your business agility and entrepreneurial spirit. Coping with corruption risks does not have to be a lonely task – tackling corruption needs efforts from everyone in society. If companies of all sizes, civil society, citizens and the public sector pool their efforts and collaborate on finding solutions we will all benefit. Collective action is offered here as an essential element for micro, small and medium-sized organizations to include in their anti-corruption compliance programmes.