

CSC Case Study Template

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The **Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC)**, founded in 2011, is the UK's foremost academic centre for studying corruption. Located within one of the world's leading universities, CSC is regarded as a highly credible source of independent and objective research and ideas. It is widely recognised for combining world-class academic approaches and research with the practical experience of how corruption can be addressed in the real world. We operate in three broad areas:

- **Research:** undertaking rigorous academic research to address the world's major corruption issues
- **Courses & Teaching:** training the next generation of anti-corruption professionals around the world from undergraduates to PhDs, with three Masters courses
- **Policy:** ensuring that our research informs evidence-based policy and helps change the world.

CSC's research activities are based around five themes:

- Corruption in politics
- Corruption in international business
- Corruption in international development
- Corruption in sport
- Corruption in geographical context – with particular strengths in the UK, Germany & Eastern Europe, China and Africa.

Full details of the published and current research undertaken by our core faculty can be found in the detailed biographies of each faculty member at www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc

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Centre for the Study of Corruption Case Study Template

(total 2,500 words)

Title:

Section

Word count

Notes: word counts per section are for guidance; sections can vary in length as long as a) the total does not exceed 2,500 words; b) each section is completed and sections are not merged. The case study does not need to be presented in the table format. See Guidance Notes for further detail.

1.	What happened?	750
2.	What type of corruption does the case illustrate?	100
3.	The harm and victims	100
4.	Who benefited and how?	100
5.	How did the case come to light?	100
6.	What was the response from authorities/law enforcement/society?	200
7.	Were the sanctions (penalties) effective?	150
8.	What were the conditions/environment that enabled the corruption?	250
9.	What failed to allow it to happen?	200
10.	What corrective mechanisms were or could be put in place?	200
11.	How does this case study illustrate or relate to theories of corruption and tackling corruption?	100
12.	What does this case study illustrate about corruption and what lessons can be learned for the future?	250

Guidance notes

- **Headings:** the headings should all be used, and sections should not be combined
- **Word count:** word counts per section are for guidance; sections can vary in length as long as a) the total does not exceed 2,500 words; b) each section is completed and sections are not merged
- **References:** citations or references should be in Chicago style (for CSC courses at Sussex); if using the CSC case study template elsewhere, Harvard or Chicago - or other - style can be used as preferred
- **Bibliography:** add a bibliography of referenced works at the end
- **Footnotes:** explanatory notes should be kept to a minimum, and should be added in footnotes
- **Illustrations** (photographs, diagrams, etc): can be added; note that if the case study is for potential publication, they need to be rights-free; for students submitting a case study for assignments, illustrations do not typically fall within the word count, unless they are text-heavy (for example, a table)
- **Formatting:** the case study does not need to be presented in the table format, although the headings for each section should be used and approximate word count adhered to
- **Libel:** if this is for potential external publication, note there is a high libel risk, so only make allegations that are a) proven in court or b) demonstrably widely held if unprovable (eg Putin is a kleptocrat) or c) so widely written elsewhere that there is a reasonable case for repeating them.

Hints & Tips about how to get the best out of the template

- **Title:** always add the title at the top of the case study. This sounds obvious – but if you leave it out, it is not usually obvious to the reader what case you have selected.
- **What Happened?** Getting this section right is the key that unlocks the rest of the template.
 - Make sure you tell the story clearly, without drowning the reader in detail, but with sufficient information that a clear picture is presented – for example, don't describe a legal process in detail unless understanding the process is intrinsic to understanding the corruption - describe the act of corruption and circumstances around it. This often requires you to make a judgement about what to leave out, especially aspects of a case that are not relevant to the 'corruption' story. For example, you may come across a case that is primarily about fraud but not

corruption – think through under what definition corruption your case falls? Of course, it is possible for a case to have both fraud and corruption, though as a corruption case study the description and analysis should focus on the corruption and not other wrongdoing.

- If you select a case which is not really about corruption, you will find much of the rest of the template very hard to complete.
- Remember that this section should describe what happened – the analysis is in the following sections, so use this section to describe not analyse. However, you can usefully add some evaluative context – for example for example, if this is one of the largest known cases of corporate bribery in the world, taking place in multiple countries over many years, in an industry prone to corruption, that is useful context.
- **Who benefited, and how?** It is useful in this section to give specific details - when the sources allow – for example, of individuals or institutions which benefited, or of scale. In addition, describing the mechanisms by which they benefited, and the relationships between them (family, cronies, political, etc) gives useful insight. The 'who benefits' section always works best when there are some clear examples - who gained, what did they gain, and by what mechanism? The beneficiaries are often much easier to discern than the victims.
- **Type of corruption:** there is no definitive list of types of corruption, but the Venn Diagram on page 14 of *Understanding Corruption* (see below) is a good entry point. If you cannot describe the type of corruption in this section, you may have selected the wrong subject for a case study on corruption. If you are uncertain, it may help to establish what definition you are using (eg 'the abuse of entrusted power for private gain') and then describe why the conduct or misconduct in the case study qualifies as corruption in this context.
- **Enabling environment and what failed:** these are two distinct sections, but are sometimes confused. Broadly the enabling environment is asking you to look at the wider cultural, economic or political context to explain whether, why or how the corruption was enabled; in analysing 'what failed' you are asked to look for specific things that went wrong which could reasonably be expected to have been working.
- **Lessons learned (final section):** this section allows you to stamp your own mark on the writing and demonstrate more fully your knowledge and insight, not just of the case in question, but of the wider context of corruption in local, national and international terms.
- **Narrative:** view the entire template as a means of telling a story that unfolds step by step. Don't just answer some questions briefly and in isolation – they are a guide but the answers should feel part of an overall narrative – view them as sub-headings within an overall document.
- **Style:** the template allows academic discipline to be applied to the study of a real case of corruption, and the style of analysis and writing should reflect this. At its best, a completed case study combines the academic and practitioner approaches – it is both

descriptive and analytical, readable and well-referenced, and looks at the immediate and the wider context.

- **Format:** the requirement is to use the headings but not present them in a table format. In fact, it is usually easier for both reader and writer not to use any fancy formatting, just a simple Word document using the headings.
- **Length:** while you can vary the word count between sections, but each section has value, and very short answers normally indicate that you are not exploring that aspect of the case in sufficient depth.
- **Examples:** you can find examples of how the template is used by the CSC faculty by looking at the book: Barrington, R., Dávid-Barrett, E., Power, S., Hough, D. (2022). *Understanding Corruption: how corruption works in practice*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Agenda Publishing.