

HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
Room G/38, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ
General Enquiries: 07872 828699
Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>
E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2023/2

20 March 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (the Commission) received on 20 February 2023.

You asked:

Please provide a list of any and all contact your organisation and/or staff have had with British American Tobacco, Imperial Brands, Japan Tobacco International, Philip Morris International, as well as any other domestic or transnational tobacco companies or anyone representing the tobacco industry including subsidiaries of tobacco industry.

I would like this information for the period from 1 April 2021 to 20 February 2023.

Contact would primarily include attending or arranging meetings or functions, and responding to correspondence or phone calls.

Please break down the information by:

- *Tobacco company or representative's name*
- *Date of contact(s)*
- *Type of contact (meeting, email, letter, phone call, text/app message or video call, e-card or any other form of electronic communication)*
- *Place of contact, if relevant*
- *Purpose of contact*
- *Outcome of contact, including if no action taken*

We are writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is not held by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

HOLAC is an Arms Length Body which is staffed by the Cabinet Office from the Honours and Appointments Secretariat. It does not directly employ staff, and therefore we do not hold records of with whom staff may have had contact. You may wish to contact the Cabinet Office Freedom of Information team for further information at foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Should you wish to do so, your request would need to be refined to cover a specific team within the Cabinet Office.

The Commission has to contact a wide range of organisations in the process of carrying out its duties and therefore under section 37(1)(b) of the Act (conferral of honours and dignities - a peerage is a dignity), we can neither confirm nor deny contact with the organisations listed.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may write to the Secretary to the Commission, Alison Bennett, to ask for an internal review by another person not involved with this request. Please note that we will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HOLAC.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission