



From: [Redacted]
Sent: 13 April 2015 11:15
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy

From: [Redacted] ASA
Sent: 13 April 2015 09:50
To: [Redacted] FCO
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your prompt response.

This is a serious issue as the BAT meeting with the Pakistan government which the High Commissioner participated in led to a policy change by the government. The government agreed to set up a committee to discuss the issue further and subsequently implementation of larger graphic health warnings was delayed by two months from March 30 to May 31.

Further steps should be taken to minimise the damage to our international reputation and need not wait until after the election.

For example the FCO could and should, require posts to run any requests for assistance from tobacco companies past the DH tobacco team for their advice about how they should be handled. I see no reason why this needs to wait for Ministerial approval since it is not a change to published policy, but purely a procedural change designed to ensure that current government policies are properly enforced.

Best wishes.

[Redacted]
 [Redacted]
 Chief Executive
 Action on Smoking & Health
 Suites 59-63, 6th Floor, New House
 67-68 Hatton Garden
 London EC1N 8JY

W: <http://www.ash.org.uk>

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From: [Redacted] FCO
Sent: 10 April 2015 14:26
To: [Redacted] ASA
Subject: RE: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 9 April to Sir Simon Fraser. He is travelling this week but I will ensure that it is brought to his urgent attention on his return next week.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary and DSC | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH | Email: laura.mingers@fco.gov.uk | Tel: 020 7008 3889 |

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From: [REDACTED] *ASH*
Sent: 09 April 2015 18:20
To: PUS Action (Sensitive)
Cc: [REDACTED] *FC*
Subject: FW: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy
Importance: High

Unfortunately the FCO system would not accept the news clip from Pakistan TV so I have resent without this attachment.

Regards,

From: [REDACTED] *ASH*
Sent: 09 April 2015 18:04
To: [REDACTED] *FCO*
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy
Importance: High

Dear Sir Simon

I am writing to you again directly as the responses I have received on your behalf from Owen Jenkins do not seem to correspond with this facts.

I have now been sent a copy of the minutes of the meeting between British American Tobacco and the Pakistan government attended by the High Commissioner (see attached). You will note that the subject matter of the meeting was clearly the concern of the BAT delegation about the increase in size of the graphic health warnings on packs. The news clip on Pakistan TV subsequent to the meeting also states that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issue of the enhanced size of health warnings (attached on email). Furthermore it has been confirmed to me that the High Commissioner introduced the BAT delegation to the Pakistan government and started the discussion, highlighting BAT's concern about large graphic health warnings. I would be pleased to hear how the surprising conclusion was reached that the High Commissioner "disassociated himself on the spot from tobacco industry positions".

I would suggest that this issue needs to be taken more seriously by the FCO.

I look forward to your response.



**Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office**

[REDACTED]
**Action on Smoking and Health
Chief Executive**

[by email: [REDACTED]

15 April 2015

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 9 April.

I have followed closely the correspondence about your suggestions that our High Commissioner to Pakistan lobbied on behalf of the tobacco industry, including the short note about the meeting in question attached to your recent letter. I have looked into this matter myself and have spoken to Philip Barton.

I fully endorse Owen Jenkins' letters. The High Commissioner was not aware in advance that the health minister would attend the meeting, nor was he aware that the issue of health warnings would be discussed. I have also had confirmation that the High Commissioner did not introduce the delegation, did not start the discussion and did not highlight concerns about health warnings. As you know, the High Commissioner subsequently wrote to participants in the meeting setting out the UK's strong support for comprehensive health strategies.

Clearly we should do our best to avoid similar misunderstandings in future. You have suggested changes to the guidance and to how this is implemented and publicised to posts and to other host governments. During the election purdah period government departments are required not to make policy changes or take actions that could be construed to draw further attention to existing publications. It is important that any change in policy or implementation is fully considered, that all stakeholders are consulted and that ministers are able to make a decision based on advice from all relevant officials. On that basis the three departments primarily responsible for the guidance have agreed to review the issue following the election.

Sir Simon Fraser KCMG
Permanent Under-Secretary of State
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Meanwhile, I am committed to ensuring that the existing guidelines continue to be implemented in full. Instructions have now been reissued to remind our Posts of their obligations, and instructing them, if there is any doubt over implementation, to seek guidance from DH, FCO and UKTI.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Fraser

[Redacted]

Sent: 09 July 2015 13:46
Subject: FW: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy
Attachments: 15 - SF letter to Deborah Arnott.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[Redacted]

[Redacted] emailed us again following our last letter to her in which we agreed to review the guidance post election. Grateful if you could give us an update on where this is and what the next steps are. Grateful also for advice on responding to [Redacted] email including providing a relevant contact point in the FCO. I've copied in [Redacted] who covers CCED and will lead on this for our office.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Assistant Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary and DSC | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH [Redacted]

Simon Fraser's Office will not keep a record of this e-mail or any attachments. It is the responsibility of the relevant department to ensure that it is properly stored.

From: [Redacted] ASH
Sent: 09 July 2015 10:49
To: [Redacted] FCO
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: UK High Commissioner's participation in BAT delegation to lobby the government of Pakistan on tobacco policy

Dear [Redacted]

In his letter to me dated 15th April 2015 (see attached) Sir Simon Fraser confirmed that the three departments primarily responsible for the guidelines for overseas posts on the tobacco industry had agreed to review the issue following the election. I have heard nothing further since the election so I would be very grateful if you could inform me who for the FCO will be leading on this work as I would like to get in touch with them.

I would also like confirmation that the guidelines will be reviewed in a timely manner. The last time they were reviewed it took nearly 21 months from start to finish.

Best wishes.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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