



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Caribbean, Central America and Mexico
Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

12 January 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1193-17

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

A list of all contacts that UK diplomatic posts in Cuba have had with tobacco manufacturers, since the revised guidelines for overseas posts on support to the tobacco industry were finalised in December 2013, broken down by name of the tobacco manufacturer, date, purpose of the contact and type of assistance provided and with the job title and location of the person who provided the assistance

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request. See below:

- *Name of the tobacco manufacturer* – Habanos SA/Brascuba SA
- *Date* – ad hoc
- *Purpose of contact* – invitations to activities related to British Business Group in Cuba.
- *Type of assistance provided and with the job title and location of the person who provided the assistance* – no assistance offered.

The British Embassy and Department for International Trade (DIT) in Cuba have had contact with Brascuba SA and Habanos SA in their capacity as members of the British Business Group (BBG). DIT Cuba organises activities for BBG members such as business lunches and receptions to discuss commercial issues. Members of the BBG have been invited to Embassy receptions and events, and to the DIT pavilion at the Annual Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV). At those events, the company representatives would have been met by

DIT staff and members of the British Embassy, including the Ambassador. The Embassy does not maintain full attendance records for each activity. Ambassadors have been invited to the Annual Cigar Festival in Cuba. No member of DIT or the Embassy has had a separate meeting or provided assistance to tobacco companies.

Yours sincerely,

Caribbean, Central America and Mexico Department
Americas Directorate



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