

From: Enquiries
Sent: 6 March 2023 08:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Enquiries
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Contacts with tobacco industry

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on 20 February 2023 and allocated reference RFI 068.

The SSRO has no contact with the tobacco industry and holds no information.

To provide some explanation of our role, the Single Source Regulations Office or SSRO is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). We play a key role in the regulation of single source, or non-competitive, defence contracts. The Defence Reform Act 2014 ('the Act') created a regulatory framework for single source defence contracts. The framework came fully into force in December 2014, following Parliamentary approval of the Single Source Contract Regulations 2014. The framework places controls on the prices of qualifying contracts and requires greater transparency on the part of defence contractors. The SSRO is at the heart of the regulatory framework, supporting its operation.

We are responsible for:

- Keeping under review the Defence Reform Act and the Regulations and recommending appropriate changes to the Secretary of State.
- Making an annual recommendation to the Secretary of State on the Baseline Profit Rate, Capital Servicing Rates and SSRO funding adjustment to be applied in determining the profit rates of qualifying contracts.
- Giving opinions and making determinations on questions referred by the MOD and defence contractors, clarifying how the regime applies to qualifying contracts and resolving disagreements.
- Keeping under review the extent to which contractors are complying with their reporting obligations.
- Keeping an up-to-date record of qualifying contracts and receiving statutory reports from defence contractors into the SSRO's DefCARS database.
- Fulfilling requests by the Secretary of State for analysis of reported data and providing other services or assistance relating to single source defence procurement.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to: Neil Swift, c/o Enquiries, enquiries@ssro.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards,

Enquiries
Single Source Regulations Office

T: 0203 771 4771 | E: enquiries@ssro.gov.uk
Finlaison House | 15-17 Furnival Street | London | EC4A 1AB
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2023 13:20
To: Enquiries <enquiries@ssro.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Contacts with tobacco industry

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

I request that the information be provided electronically. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]