



[REDACTED]

16 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00082

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

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*

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold some information relevant to your request. We note that you sent the same request to several research councils; please note that all research councils, Innovate UK and Research England have been brought together under UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as of April 2018. As this is the case, all your requests have been collated into a single request under UKRI.

We can confirm that our searches have identified one piece of information relevant to your request. One council reported email contact with British American Tobacco as follows:

- Tobacco company or representative's name: British American Tobacco.
- Date of contact(s): 22/02/2022 and 09/03/2022
- Type of contact – Email.
- Place of contact, if relevant – N/A
- Purpose of contact: To instigate a research collaboration
- Outcome of contact, including if no action taken: Declined the request to collaborate highlighting that we could not accept funding or enter into a collaboration with them.

UKRI does not hold any further information on contact in the form of attending or arranging meetings or functions, and responding to correspondence or phone calls with any tobacco companies identified in your request, during the period specified in your request. Further UKRI is not aware of any contact with any unnamed "other domestic or transnational tobacco companies or anyone representing the tobacco industry including subsidiaries of tobacco industry."

We can advise that ESRC, EPSRC, MRC and NERC are funding partners of UK Prevention Research Partnership (UKPRP) who have guidance and policy on [collaborating with industry](#)¹, which includes that "UKPRP will not support collaborations with commercial or other vested interests of the tobacco industry. This includes alternative nicotine delivery system (e-cigarettes etc.) companies and research organisations funded by the tobacco industry."

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance

Information Rights Team

UK Research and Innovation

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¹ <https://ukprp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/UKPRP-Industry-Guidance-Report-v1.pdf>