



**Information Governance Team**

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27 March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI696056375**

Thank you for your request for information relating to contact with tobacco industry.

You have requested the following information:

**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 23 April 2023- 10 March**

**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

The only contact our Trading Standards team have had with any of the major tobacco brands is with Japan Tobacco International (known to us as JTI).

The nature of the contact is that JTI conduct covert test-purchases of illicit tobacco, in order to gauge the nature and extent of the current problem locally.

These third party test-purchases are made of JTI's own volition and are not guided or influenced by us in any way. We do not know in advance as to where may be visited, or when, or what might be purchased.

The results of the test purchasing exercise are passed to us in the form of intelligence. This intelligence helps us understand the wider intelligence picture; however, it does not result in their brands (or the sellers they visited) being targeted as a result of such intelligence, the information generally corroborates that which we already know.

JTI conduct these purchases on a national basis and share intelligence with all corresponding TS services. No money, goods or incentives are provided, and none are sought in any circumstances.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**