

Summary of investigation

October to December 2022

Organisation or person investigated

British Chambers of Commerce (“BCC”)

Matter(s) investigated

Whether the BCC is a consultant lobbyist

Registrar’s decision

The BCC is not a consultant lobbyist

Summary of rationale for decision

The BCC’s communications with government ministers that the Registrar is aware of are not ‘on behalf of a client’, which is one of the tests in the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 (‘the Act’). The Registrar considers that the BCC is expressing a collective view of the organisation as a whole, rather than a view on behalf of a member (client).

Chronology

Date	Action
11 October	Formal letter from the Registrar to the BCC giving background on the requirement for registering; asking if their activities fall within the criteria to be registered; with reference to the BCC website stating ‘Our mission is to be the voice of UK businesses and represent their interests and priorities to government and in the media.’
8 November	Further letter from the Registrar, following no response from the BCC.
9 November	Letter from BCC explaining the letter of 11 October was not received and requesting an extension to respond

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11 November	Email from ORCL giving Registrar's agreement to the extension.
29 November	Substantive response from BCC regarding its structure, communications and purpose.
9 December	Letter from the Registrar concluding his investigation.

9 December 2022

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