

Corporate Watch

MODULE 3:

LOBBYISTS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

AIMS OF THIS SECTION

- ▶ To gain a basic understanding of what lobbyists and think tanks are and why understanding them can be useful for campaign research.
- ▶ To be introduced to some websites and tools that can help you find lobbyists.
- ▶ To learn how to find donations to political parties and financial interests of politicians.

WHAT ARE LOBBYISTS?

- ▶ Lobbying is when an individual or a group tries to persuade someone in parliament or influence the government to support a particular policy or campaign.
- ▶ Corporate lobbyists represent corporations or the economic interests of a particular group of capitalists.
- ▶ Lobbying is a huge industry but mostly operates behind closed doors.
- ▶ Lobbyists will be intimately connected to the media and be able to greatly influence certain narratives.
- ▶ Corporations will create an evidence base and lobby indirectly for their interests. For example, funding think tanks. This was a common tactic of the tobacco industry.

WHAT ARE LOBBYISTS?

- ▶ Industry bodies will keep people with oppositional views under great surveillance and strategically intervene with counter narratives.
- ▶ The lobbying area is a digital one not just face-to-face lunches with MPs.
- ▶ Relationships are power! There is a common revolving door between politicians and capitalist interests.
- ▶ Good resource: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/mar/12/lobbying-10-ways-corporations-influence-government>



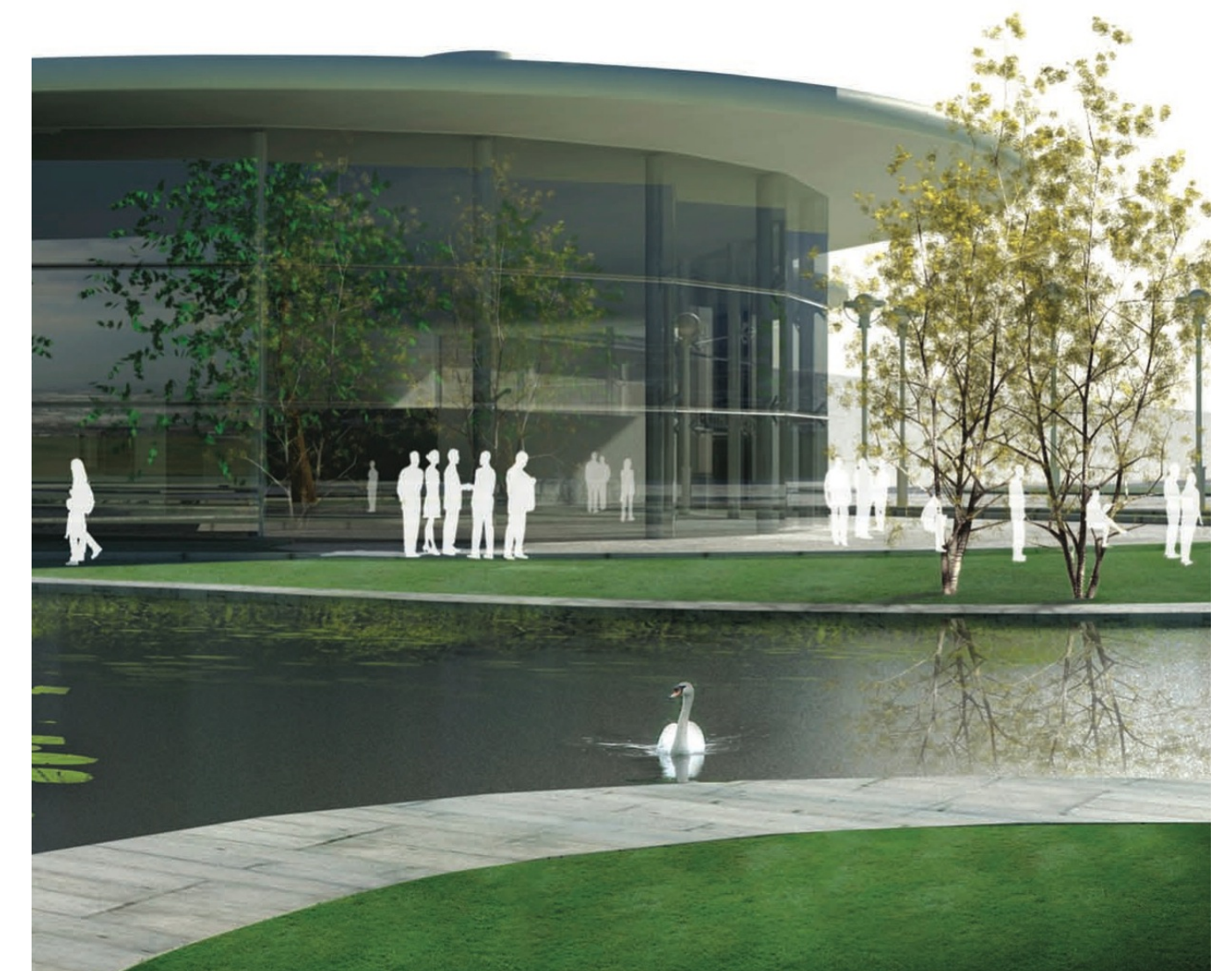
THINK TANKS

- ▶ A body of experts providing advice and ideas on specific political or economic problems.
- ▶ Most think tanks are non-governmental organisations, but some are semi-autonomous agencies within government or are associated with particular political parties or businesses.
- ▶ Mostly funded by capitalists (millionaires, industry bodies, companies) and some by grants.

Future Prisons

A radical plan to reform
the prison estate

Kevin Lockyer
Edited by Max Chambers



WHY IS IT USEFUL TO RESEARCH LOBBYISTS AND THINK TANKS?

- ▶ Know your enemy!
- ▶ Understand the power relationships at play.
- ▶ Have foresight of what is on the horizon e.g. prison expansion.
- ▶ Be prepared for common narratives that need countering.



CASE STUDY: 55 TUFTON STREET

- ▶ See: <https://desmog.co.uk/55-tufton-street>
- ▶ Home to a small but influential network of libertarian, pro-Brexit think tanks and lobby groups, including the UK's principal climate science denial group, the Global Warming Policy Foundation.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ▶ Public Relations companies can play a role in providing a desirable, acceptable exterior to damaging corporate projects.
- ▶ Obscuring corporate and government relationships.
- ▶ Undermines protest and resistance.
- ▶ Spreads misinformation.
- ▶ Resource: <https://corporatewatch.org/product/whats-wrong-with-the-public-relations-industry/>



HOW TO FIND LOBBYISTS

- ▶ Powerbase is a free guide to networks of power, lobbying, public relations and the communications activities of governments and other interests.

▶ <https://powerbase.info>

The screenshot shows the Powerbase website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links like 'Main Page', 'Recent changes', and 'Tools'. The main content area is titled 'Arms Trade Lobbying Portal' and features a purple banner with the text 'A guide to the lobbyists, politicians and ex-civil servants working with the arms trade'. Below this is an image of an aircraft on display at the ExCeL London exhibition center. To the right of the image is a text box with the heading 'How the arms trade lobby works' and a call to action: 'Help us expose the arms trade and government spin'. The text explains that Powerbase is run on a tiny budget and asks for donations if the resources are useful.

The arms trade revolving door

Many retired top military brass, politicians and government officials go on to work in the arms and security industries. Below is a snapshot of some who've snapped up lucrative jobs. [SEE FULL LIST OF PROFILES](#).

Arms trade lobbyists

- Vice Admiral [Peter Hudson](#) - worked with global PR and lobbying giant [Burson Marsteller](#), now with [BAE Systems](#)
- [Oliver Waghorn](#) - former special adviser to [Liam Fox](#), now [BAE Systems](#) government relations director
- Brigadier [Jon Brittain](#) - former UK head of defence logistics and the Joint Forces Command, now a partner at [Terrington Management](#)
- [Christopher Williams](#), former [Cabinet Office](#) private secretary, now [Lockheed Martin](#) UK lobbyist

Military Revolvers

Arms trade lobbying

Arms trade fairs

- [Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference](#)
- [Defence Systems and Equipment International](#)

Political access

- [All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Armed Forces](#)
- [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Defence and Security Issues](#)
- [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Aerospace](#)
- [United Kingdom National Defence Association](#)

Government

- [Department for International Trade Defence and Security Organisation](#)
- [Ministry of Defence Saudi Armed Forces Projects](#)
- [Committees on Arms Export Controls](#)

Companies

- [BAE Systems](#)
- [Babcock International Group](#)
- [General Dynamics](#)
- [Leonardo](#)
- [L3 Technologies](#)
- [MBDA](#)
- [Raytheon](#)
- [Lockheed Martin](#)

US LOBBYISTS

- ▶ <https://www.opensecrets.org/Lobby/>



The screenshot shows the OpenSecrets.org website. The logo is "OpenSecrets.org Center for Responsive Politics". Navigation links include "About", "Resources", and "Sign Up". A search bar, a "MENU" button, and a "DONATE" button are visible. The main content area has a blue background with the text "Lobbying Database" and a paragraph: "In addition to campaign contributions to elected officials and candidates, companies, labor unions, and other organizations spend billions of dollars each year to lobby Congress and federal agencies. Some special interests retain lobbying firms, many of them located along Washington's legendary K Street; others have lobbyists working in-house. We've got totals spent on lobbying, beginning in 1998, for everyone from AAI Corp. to Zurich Financial. (See also: Foreign Lobby Watch.)"

OpenSecrets.org
Center for Responsive Politics

About | Resources | Sign Up

Search

MENU

DONATE

Home / Influence & Lobbying / Lobbying / Overview

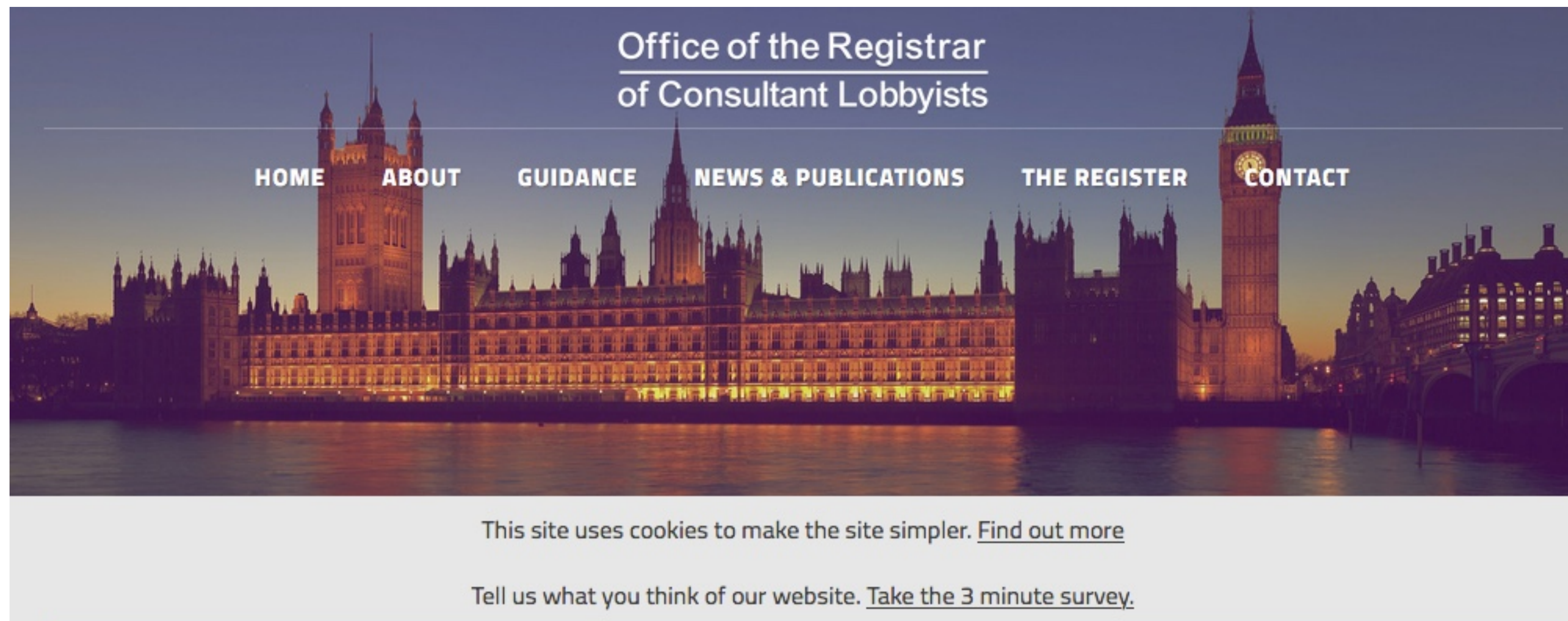
Tweet

Lobbying Database

In addition to campaign contributions to elected officials and candidates, companies, labor unions, and other organizations spend billions of dollars each year to lobby Congress and federal agencies. Some special interests retain lobbying firms, many of them located along Washington's legendary K Street; others have lobbyists working in-house. We've got totals spent on lobbying, beginning in 1998, for everyone from AAI Corp. to Zurich Financial. (See also: Foreign Lobby Watch.)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CONSULTANT LOBBYISTS

▶ <https://registrarofconsultantlobbyists.org.uk/>



Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists

The Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists was set up following the

Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration

News

[Guidance update – August 2020](#)

Tuesday 4th August 2020

[Consultations on Registerable](#)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CONSULTANT LOBBYISTS

[Consultant Lobbyists](#) | [Clients](#)

Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists

Below is a list of organisations that have joined the Register of Consultant Lobbyists. An organisation must join the Register if they conduct the business of consultant lobbying as defined by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO HOME PAGE](#)

Search for a consultant lobbyist

Search

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Consultant Lobbyist

AA Access Partnership Limited

[See profile...](#)

AMZC Limited

[See profile...](#)

APCO Worldwide Ltd

[See profile...](#)

Acuitas Communications Ltd

[See profile...](#)

Anthony Gold Solicitors

[See profile...](#)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CONSULTANT LOBBYISTS

[Consultant Lobbyists](#) | [Clients](#) | **Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists**

Below is a searchable list of declared clients by registered Consultant Lobbyists. See the guidance to find out more about the requirement for consultant lobbyists to register clients. [CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO HOME PAGE](#)

Search for a client

[Search](#)

Displaying 1-50 of 2645. [Previous Page](#) | [Next Page](#)

Client	
) & H properties	See profile...
10:10	See profile...
2 Sisters Food Group	See profile...
21st Century Fox	See profile...
23andMe	See profile...

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTERESTS

- ▶ Provides "information about any financial interest which a Member of Parliament has which others might reasonably consider to influence his or her actions or words as a Member of Parliament."
- ▶ Includes any benefit they receive.
- ▶ <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-financial-interests/parliamentary-commissioner-for-standards/registers-of-interests/register-of-members-financial-interests/>

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- ▶ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/financial-reporting>

Financial reporting

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[Annual accounts](#)



[Political Finance Online](#)



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