# David Cameron’s consultancy role at DLA Piper reignites ethical concerns over post-office lobbying



David Cameron's potential new role as a consultant at DLA Piper raises serious concerns about the ethics of former leaders transitioning back into lucrative positions in the private sector. This move becomes even more contentious in light of his previous involvement in the Greensill scandal, which exposed significant lapses in judgment regarding lobbying practices during his tenure in office. Advising on geopolitical risks might sound noble at first glance, but given Cameron's past, one can't help but question whether his insights will serve the public or merely enhance his personal interests.

Since stepping down as Prime Minister in 2016, Cameron has assembled a portfolio of advisory roles that often blur ethical lines. His positions with private equity and hedge firms showcase a troubling trend: ex-leaders leveraging their political clout for profit, sidestepping moral accountability. While DLA Piper claims this new consultancy will steer clear of active lobbying, the firm's deep ties in both US and UK lobbying circles suggest a move to modify public opinion, not unlike previous efforts Cameron undertook with Greensill.

In fact, the 2021 Treasury Committee's inquiry into his lobbying revealed a disheartening picture of a politician persistently seeking to influence officials for personal gain. With over 60 messages sent to key figures, his actions epitomize a systemic failure that allows ex-leaders to exploit their networks while shielding themselves from the consequences of their actions. This scenario has led to ongoing public distrust concerning the revolving door between politics and big business, where ethics seem all too easily discarded.

Cameron's brief return to public office as Foreign Secretary from 2023 to 2024 only served to perpetrate this troubling narrative, emphasizing that too often, once at the top, individuals are granted repeated chances to reinsert themselves into significant roles despite questionable past decisions. His previous endorsements, like that of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, only highlight a pattern of prioritizing foreign partnerships over national interests, raising alarms about where his true loyalties lie.

Interestingly, a recent incident involving his difficulties in securing a mobile phone contract due to his status as a "politically exposed person" (PEP) sheds light on the bias inherent in financial services for individuals like him. This scenario resonates starkly with the experiences of others, such as Nigel Farage, who faced similar challenges. Farage's outrage over being denied services due to his PEP status uncovers a broader dialogue about the fairness of how past leaders are treated by financial institutions, yet it circles back to a fundamental question: Should anyone guilty of ethical breaches be shielded by such classifications?

As Cameron ponders this lucrative opportunity at DLA Piper, the ongoing scrutiny surrounding his career trajectory and past controversies reminds us that concerns around ethics in politics remain unresolved. Allowing him, or anyone with a similarly murky background, back into influential roles only serves to fuel the narrative that elite individuals can operate above the rules, further eroding public trust in both the political and financial systems.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/23/david-cameron-in-talks-to-become-consultant-at-law-firm-dla-piper> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/4453ceb5-020e-4578-bd46-eab47236ef22> - Former UK Prime Minister Lord David Cameron is in discussions to join global law firm DLA Piper as a consultant, where he would advise on geopolitical risks. The role has not been finalized and would require approval from the UK's Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (Acoba), though it is not expected to involve lobbying activities. DLA Piper, ranked the world's third-largest law firm by revenue, is registered as a lobbyist in both the US and UK. Cameron, who resigned after the 2016 Brexit referendum, briefly returned to public office as foreign secretary from 2023 to 2024. His post-government career has included advisory roles with firms such as Finback Investment Partners, Caxton, and PayCargo, along with international speaking engagements. Cameron’s reputation was previously tarnished by a 2021 scandal involving his lobbying efforts for the now-defunct Greensill Capital, though he did not break any laws. DLA Piper is known for employing former political figures, including George Mitchell. The firm's decentralized structure allows international offices to operate under a unified brand while maintaining separate financial accounts.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/23/david-cameron-in-talks-to-become-consultant-at-law-firm-dla-piper> - David Cameron is in talks to join the law firm DLA Piper as a consultant – five years after the Greensill scandal that showed he intensively lobbied officials on behalf of his failing employer. The former prime minister, who also served as foreign secretary last year, is said to be having discussions about taking on an advisory position to help the firm with geopolitical risks. The job would be in addition to Cameron’s existing portfolio of roles, with his current register of interests listing that he works as an adviser to Finback Investment Partners, a private equity firm, and Caxton Associates, a hedge fund. He also chairs the advisory board of a payments firm called PayCargo LLP. It is understood Cameron’s role at DLA Piper, first reported by the Financial Times, would not involve lobbying on behalf of the company, which is the world’s third biggest law firm. The former prime minister has had a series of jobs since he left No 10 in 2016, including lobbying the government on behalf of a since-collapsed financial firm, Greensill, which led to a scandal over his influence. A parliamentary inquiry by the Treasury committee in 2021 found that it was inappropriate for the ex-prime minister to send 62 messages to former colleagues asking them to help Greensill, for which he worked and in which he owned stock options that could have been worth tens of millions of pounds. The inquiry found he had shown a “significant lack of judgment”. He also worked for a gene-sequencing company, Illumina, which won a £123m government contract during the pandemic; and an AI firm, Afiniti, from which he resigned in 2021. Before he was foreign secretary, Cameron also appeared to have been helping to drum up support for a controversial port project in Sri Lanka, which is part of the flagship belt and road initiative of the Chinese president, Xi Jinping. Cameron’s office and DLA Piper have been approached for comment. DLA Piper told the FT that discussions were under way and declined to comment further. Separately, the Daily Mail reported on Thursday that Cameron had struggled to buy a Vodafone mobile phone contract for one of his children and there was a suspicion that this was because he was a “politically exposed person” (PEP). The issue came under the spotlight originally when Nigel Farage, the Reform UK leader and MP, had his bank account at Coutts closed down because he had been classed as politically exposed. Financial regulations mean banks and other financial services providers are more reluctant to deal with politicians because they are potential targets for bribery and corruption. In response to the concerns raised by Cameron’s experience, Farage told the Times: “The prejudice against PEPs is truly appalling. My debanking case exposed this. There are about 90,000 people on the PEP list and that includes people like my children who have been denied things wholly unfairly. The whole thing is an outrage.” The Financial Conduct Authority issued a warning last year to banks that they must do more to make sure politicians and their families are treated more fairly and not denied services.
4. <https://www.moneysupermarket.com/mobile-phones/networks/vodafone/> - Compare Vodafone mobile phone deals, including the latest iPhone and Samsung Galaxy models, with various data plans and upfront costs. Offers include the iPhone 16 series and Samsung Galaxy S25 series, with monthly payments and upfront costs detailed for each model. Users can search for specific mobile phone models and compare the best contract deals available.
5. <https://www.macrumors.com/2024/12/05/vodafone-three-merger-approved-uk-regulator/> - The UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has approved the merger between Vodafone and Three UK, clearing the way for the creation of Britain's largest mobile operator. The approval comes with legally binding commitments requiring both companies to invest billions in rolling out their combined 5G network across the country. Under the terms of the approval, the merged company must fulfill several key obligations over the next eight years, including implementing a comprehensive network upgrade plan and adhering to price controls for the first three years. The combined entity will serve approximately 27 million mobile subscriptions, surpassing current market leaders Virgin Media O2 and EE. Vodafone will initially hold a 51 percent stake in the venture, with plans to acquire the remaining 49 percent after three years. In a press release statement, Stuart McIntosh, chair of the CMA's independent inquiry group, said: "Having carefully considered the evidence, as well as the extensive feedback we have received, we believe the merger is likely to boost competition in the UK mobile sector and should be allowed to proceed." The merger's implementation will be jointly overseen by the CMA and Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator. The combined company will be required to publish annual reports detailing its progress on the network plan, with the CMA specifically monitoring consumer tariffs and wholesale terms. The £16.5 billion ($20.9 billion) deal is expected to complete in the first half of 2025, pending the companies' formal acceptance of the CMA's conditions. Notably, the same competition watchdog last year initially blocked UK approval for Microsoft's proposed $69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard, before later clearing it under a new deal in which Microsoft would not acquire Activision's cloud streaming rights outside the EEA.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vodafone_UK> - Vodafone UK is the British subsidiary of Vodafone Group, operating as a mobile telecommunications provider in the United Kingdom. The company offers a range of mobile services, including voice, text, and data plans, and has been involved in various mergers and acquisitions to expand its market presence. Notably, in December 2024, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority approved the merger between Vodafone and Three UK, creating Britain's largest mobile operator. The merger was subject to legally binding commitments requiring both companies to invest in rolling out their combined 5G network across the country. The combined entity is expected to serve approximately 27 million mobile subscriptions, surpassing current market leaders Virgin Media O2 and EE. The merger's implementation is jointly overseen by the CMA and Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-25196425> - Mobile phone users in the UK are being protected from 'shock bills' if their phones are stolen, following an agreement between the government and four major operators: EE, Three, Virgin Media, and Vodafone. The agreement includes a cap on the maximum amount customers would be expected to pay in such cases, set at a level similar to the £50 liability cap on stolen credit and debit cards. Additionally, the firms will inform customers of mid-contract price rises, allowing users the option to break off the contract without penalty. Culture Secretary Maria Miller stated that the deal would help ensure people are not hit with unexpected costs due to stolen mobiles or price increases during the contract period.