# David Cameron’s potential DLA Piper role fuels fresh scrutiny over lobbying ethics



David Cameron is reportedly in discussions to join the international law firm DLA Piper as a consultant, a move likely to ignite intense scrutiny given his controversial past. The former Prime Minister's potential role would involve advising the firm on geopolitical risks—especially pertinent given the chaotic climate of global politics. This development comes just five years after the Greensill lobbying scandal, which exposed his worrying ties to the now-defunct Greensill Capital, raising serious questions about accountability among political leaders.

Before his brief stint as Foreign Secretary from 2023 to 2024, Cameron had developed a varied portfolio advising firms like Finback Investment Partners and Caxton Associates, and leading the advisory board for PayCargo LLP. Despite no detailed comments from either Cameron's office or DLA Piper, the firm has indicated that discussions are ongoing while emphasizing that his new role would not involve lobbying activities. This is a crucial claim, especially in light of his history of influencing government policy while working for Greensill.

The Greensill affair, which prompted significant public outrage and an investigation by the Treasury Committee, revealed Cameron’s alarming attempts to engage with government officials, raising ethical concerns about his judgment. His outreach—consisting of 62 messages seeking support for Greensill’s inclusion in the government’s Covid Corporate Financing Facility—while technically legal, exposed an "inappropriate" level of influence that calls into question the integrity of lobbying regulations in the UK.

While the hiring of prominent political figures by firms like DLA Piper is commonplace, Cameron’s potential appointment is bound to be greeted with public scepticism. The legacy of the lobbyist landscape post-Greensill demands a critical examination of how such positions can undermine transparency and accountability in government.

Compounding his issues, Cameron has faced recent media scrutiny after struggling to secure a mobile phone contract due to being classified as a "politically exposed person" (PEP). This designation subjects individuals with government ties to enhanced scrutiny, often deterring financial institutions from engaging with them due to fears of reputational risk tied to corruption. Notably, Farage has criticized this treatment of PEPs as "truly appalling" and indicative of a prejudicial system in urgent need of reform.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has acknowledged these concerns, signaling that banks should regard politicians and their families with greater fairness, particularly those wrongly flagged due to their public roles. Cameron's ongoing challenges highlight systemic issues within the financial landscape, reinforcing calls for reevaluation of how political exposure is treated—an area where robust reform is long overdue.

As discussions continue between Cameron and DLA Piper, the implications of his potential consultancy extend beyond his career. They stir renewed debates about lobbying ethics, government influence, and the perilous intersection of politics and corporate power, all of which continue to resonate profoundly in today's political climate.

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.ft.com/content/86a9dc14-49d8-47df-a0ea-cb90c26544e7> - Freshfields, a prominent UK law firm, has taken a bold stance by being the only one among the world's top 20 firms to support Perkins Coie in the face of a controversial executive order from U.S. President Donald Trump. This move underscores Freshfields' significant cultural and political evolution, spurred by its aggressive U.S. expansion since 2019, when it hired top M&A lawyer Ethan Klingsberg. The expansion brought high-profile clients like Google but increased costs, raising internal debates about strategy and profitability. Senior litigator Georgia Dawson led the decision to sign the court filing, marking a notable divergence from its American competitors. In other corporate developments, BP and Novo Nordisk chair Helge Lund faces criticism from stakeholders over his handling of company challenges and leadership transitions. Meanwhile, Laurent Freixe, Nestlé’s new CEO, has sharply criticized his predecessor's strategy and is refocusing on core product areas to restore company culture and profitability. Additionally, notable global business appointments occurred, including at Lane42 Investment Partners, Eastspring Investments, and the World Travel & Tourism Council. Elsewhere, companies like Apple, LVMH, Google, and Tesla’s competitor BYD featured prominently in global business news, with developments in supply chains, antitrust actions, and market shifts.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/927fb801-2dde-4841-81bd-3f9b95e41b95> - The UK Insolvency Service has petitioned the High Court to bar Lex Greensill from company directorships for up to 15 years, following an investigation into the 2021 collapse of Greensill Capital. The service aims to disqualify Greensill due to his conduct as a director of his firm. Greensill, who denies the allegations, is also suing the business department for alleged misuse of private information. Greensill Capital, backed by high-profile investors such as SoftBank, collapsed after losing insurance cover. The company was involved in UK political controversies and has connections with investigations into fraudulent activities, including packaging suspicious loans into securities sold to Credit Suisse investors. The collapse has led to multiple legal actions, including a criminal probe in Germany and mis-selling allegations in Switzerland. Greensill, named a CBE in 2017, also has a history of working at prominent investment banks before establishing his company.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/7582cdb774963b6ec786645ca08b2701> - Swiss regulators have determined that Credit Suisse committed a "serious breach" of the law regarding its association with the now-bankrupt Greensill Capital, founded by Australian financier Lex Greensill. This conclusion comes after a two-year enforcement proceeding by Switzerland's Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) following Greensill Capital's collapse, which led Credit Suisse to shutter four investment funds worth approximately $10 billion linked to the firm. The investigation revealed that Credit Suisse failed to adequately identify, limit, and monitor risks in its business relationship with Greensill. Consequently, FINMA mandates that Credit Suisse's top executives periodically review their most crucial business relationships and document the responsibilities of senior employees. Additionally, four former managers at the bank are facing enforcement actions. Credit Suisse has implemented governance and control improvements and has dismissed several managers in response. The regulator noted that while it could not impose severe penalties, prosecutorial authorities might pursue further action if deemed necessary.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/e79c7142-3149-4500-a76a-7b9669231207> - Lex Greensill has filed a lawsuit against the UK's Department for Business and Trade, alleging misuse of private information. Details of the claim remain undisclosed. Greensill's company, Greensill Capital, collapsed in 2021 due to a failure to renew its insurance cover, leading to a major lobbying scandal involving former UK prime minister David Cameron. The UK's insolvency service has completed an investigation into Greensill Capital, though the findings are not yet public. Lex Greensill faces potential disqualification as a company director for up to 15 years. Greensill Capital is also involved in legal proceedings in multiple jurisdictions, including name-based investigations in Switzerland and inquiries by the UK's Serious Fraud Office. Government officials have stated that taxpayers could be liable for £2 million in redundancy payments made to Greensill Capital's management company staff. The business department and Downing Street have declined to comment on the ongoing legal matters.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensill_scandal> - The Greensill scandal was a political controversy in the United Kingdom related to lobbying activities on behalf of financial services company Greensill Capital, which was founded in 2011 by Lex Greensill. It implicated former Prime Minister David Cameron, former Cabinet Secretary Jeremy Heywood, and several other civil servants, and occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. First reported by the Financial Times and The Sunday Times, it arose from the insolvency of the supply chain financing firm Greensill Capital in March 2021. Reports emerged that Cameron had lobbied Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak in 2020 to change rules in order to allow Greensill to join the Covid Corporate Financing Facility, a government loan scheme that was initiated to support companies during the pandemic-related economic recession. A Cabinet Office inquiry found Lord Heywood to be primarily responsible for Lex Greensill being given a role in government and access into 10 Downing Street. That inquiry and two other separate official inquiries found that Cameron had not broken any lobbying rules or acted unlawfully in relation to his Greensill lobbying activities, although a Treasury committee report said in finding he did not break lobbying rules "that reflects on the insufficient strength of the rules".