



Rt. Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg M.P.
Minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Dame Meg Hillier M.P.
Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

03 August 2022

See same day,

This letter provides an update on my decision to exclude Bain & Co and its affiliates from bidding for procurements for the award of Cabinet Office contracts for a period of three years from 04 January 2022.

It has been my responsibility to give careful consideration to the outcome of the Cabinet Office review commissioned by the Prime Minister into the conclusions of the South African Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture (the "Commission"), including the information and responses provided by Bain & Co during the course of the review.

I have decided that Bain & Co and its affiliates should be excluded from bidding for procurements for the award of Cabinet Office contracts for a period of three years from 04 January 2022, being the date of publication of Part 1 of the Commission's report. I have issued guidance to all government departments that I consider that Bain & Co and its affiliates should be excluded from procurements carried out by their departments for the same period.

I have reached this decision on the basis that Bain & Co is guilty of grave professional misconduct which renders its integrity questionable, giving rise to discretionary grounds for exclusion under regulation 57(8)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and has failed to clarify the facts and circumstances in a comprehensive manner by actively collaborating with the investigating authorities, as required by regulation 57(15)(b). The Commission's report provides clear evidence that Bain's South African division colluded with the South African government to damage state entities/organisations and acted improperly in how it had competed in the procurement for the contract for consultancy work with the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Bain & Co is a global brand, as reinforced by its own presentations to the Cabinet Office, and is therefore responsible for the misconduct committed by its South African division.

I have written in similar terms to the Chairman of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

With every good wish,

*Yours sincerely,
Jacob Rees-Mogg*