

The UK Refused to Raid a Company Suspected of Money Laundering, Citing Its Tory Donations

“It is of note that they are the biggest corporate donor to the Conservative party led by Prime Minister Theresa May and donated 1.25m Euros to the Prince Charles Trust.”

By [Heidi Blake](#), [Tom Warren](#), [Richard Holmes](#), and [Jane Bradley](#)

Region: [Europe](#)

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*The British government refused to assist a French investigation into suspected money laundering and tax fraud by the UK telecoms giant Lycamobile – citing the fact that the company is the “biggest corporate donor to the Conservative party” and gives money to a trust founded by **Prince Charles**.*

French prosecutors [launched a major probe](#) into the firm and arrested 19 people accused of using its accounts to launder money from organised criminal networks two years ago, after BuzzFeed News [revealed its suspicious financial activities](#) in the UK. But the Conservatives [continued taking Lycamobile’s money](#) – and it can now be revealed that the British authorities stonewalled a formal request from French prosecutors to carry out raids in London as part of the ongoing investigation.

Confidential correspondence between British government officials and their French counterparts, shown to BuzzFeed News by a source in the UK, reveals that the French wanted British authorities to raid Lycamobile’s London headquarters last year and seize evidence as part of their investigation into money laundering and tax fraud by the company.

In an official response dated 30 March 2017, a government official noted that Lycamobile is “a large multinational company” with “vast assets at their disposal” and would be “extremely unlikely to agree to having their premises searched”.

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Articles by: **Heidi Blake,**
Tom Warren, Richard
Holmes, and **Jane**
Bradley

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