

**Question for written answer E-001731/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Costs of external consultants

The revelations in the *Financial Times*¹ concerning PwC's leaking of confidential government information demonstrate the obvious risks of overly close relations between public authorities and advisory firms. In order to shed some light on these links in the EU, in the interests of transparency, could the Commission provide a response to the following questions?

1. Does the Commission have contracts with PwC and has it given PwC access to confidential information and, if so, of what kind?
2. Can it indicate (with a breakdown per company, year and service provided) how much EU money has been spent on services provided by the 'Big Four' companies, as well as by McKinsey, Bain and the Boston Consulting Group, over the last five years?
3. In its relations with these companies, does it take into consideration their records and their problematic roles in cases like the Wirecard bankruptcy scandal?

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¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/12bc9782-7370-48bb-aba6-6752e5c7e83a>.