

LOBBYING REGISTER WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

3rd Meeting, 2017

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Committee Room 1, The Scottish Parliament

Present

Working Group: Jenny Bloomfield; Gary Dunion; Michelle Cullis; Will Dinan; Kirsty Peebles; Matthew Revett; Margaret Smith; Brian Simpson. Phil Morgan (via conference call); Damien Egan

Officials: Billy McLaren; James Drummond; Dougie Wands; Joanna Hardy; Jo Kendall; Fiona Sinclair

Observer: Ian Mackay

Contributor: Dr Eve Hepburn (Agenda item 3)

Apologies: Susan Lowes; Colin Borland; Mandy Rhodes

1. Apologies/Guests: Billy McLaren welcomed all to the meeting and gave a further reminder that Mandy Rhodes had now joined the Working Group as the journalism representative.

2. Parliamentary Guidance: The group discussed the changes made to the draft version of the Parliamentary Guidance. Final suggestions, including an update to the **5 Key Steps** flow chart were agreed. .

3. Commissioned Research/Communications and Outreach: Dr Eve Hepburn, PolicyScribe Ltd, presented a summary of her commissioned research report. The report focussed on:

- Mapping the lobbying and interest-group community in Scotland and the development of initial database of potential lobbying registrants.
- Comparative analysis of other lobbying regulation across the world and the best practice and lessons drawn from that comparative analysis, to assist the Scottish Lobbying Register Team in engaging with stakeholders.

Dr Hepburn then answered any questions from the Working Group on the work undertaken to produce the report.

4. Code of Conduct for those lobbying MSPs: The Working Group discussed the possible content and format of such a Code. It was agreed that a draft would be provided at the next meeting.



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5. Any Other Business: Billy informed the group that a Quick Guide for MSPs on regulated lobbying had been issued to all MSPs by the Clerk/CE Sir Paul Grice, to further update on progress. Meetings with individual party groups to raise further awareness of the Act were to follow in September.

An information paper on voluntary registration would be produced for inclusion in papers for the next meeting.

A reminder was given that The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No.1) Regulations 2017 would come into force on 6 September.

Dougie Wands provided an update on the development of the online Lobbying Register and asked the group to provide names of volunteers for carrying out user-acceptance testing of the system.

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