



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lobbying Register | Clàr-coiteachaidh

LOBBYING REGISTER WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

4th Meeting, 2017

Tuesday 3 October 2017

Lomond Suite, Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling

Present

Working Group: Jenny Bloomfield; Mandy Rhodes; Michelle Cullis; Will Dinan; Kirsty Peebles; Matthew Revett; Brian Simpson (via conference call). Phil Morgan;

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

Observer: Ian Mackay

Contributor: Angela Hughes and Ruth Lees, Clark Communications

Apologies: Susan Lowes; Colin Borland; Gary Dunion; Margaret Smith; Sherry Perreault

1. Apologies/Guests: Billy McLaren welcomed all to the meeting. The Working Group was thanked for its efforts by Billy in his last meeting before taking extended parental leave, and welcomed Dougie Wands into the role of Acting Lobbying Registrar.

2. Presentation on Marketing Strategy from Clark Communications: Ruth Lees and Angela Hughes presented the creative designs that had been produced for use during the marketing campaign to promote the Lobbying Register and requirements of the Act.

The group discussed the two designs and provided feedback on the graphics and content contained within each. Clark Communications agreed to take feedback into account when refining the final design for the marketing campaign. The route with graphics of people meeting face to face was preferred.

The strategy and schedule for delivering the marketing campaign through various media channels was also considered and discussed.

3. Feedback on Research Report by Dr Eve Hepburn of Policyscribe: The group provided comments and observations on the research report. The group was invited to provide any additional comments by 11 October. Officials also agreed to consult Dr Hepburn with a view to publishing the report on the lobbying pages of the Scottish Parliament website.

4. IT Update and Familiarisation Period: Dougie Wands provided an update on the development of the online Lobbying Register. This included an overview of the user-

acceptance testing period, and overall readiness of the system before it was made available for general use during the familiarisation period. It was confirmed that the familiarisation period will begin on 23 October, ahead of the full commencement date for the Act on 12 March 2018.

5. Parliamentary Guidance: Billy provided the Working Group with submissions received to address any errors or omissions within the Parliamentary Guidance. These suggestions were considered by the group and amendments to the draft document were agreed where appropriate.

6. Code of Conduct for those lobbying MSPs

A first draft of a Code of Conduct was discussed, with possible revisions to the document put forward. It was agreed that a new draft would be produced for the next meeting, taking these suggestions into account.

7. Any Other Business – Information Paper on Voluntary Registration

The Working Group noted a paper summarising the category of a voluntary registrant and how this is defined under the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016.

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