



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lobbying Register | Clàr-coiteachaidh

## LOBBYING REGISTER WORKING GROUP

### MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2017

Tuesday 7 November 2017

Federation of Small Businesses, 74 Berkeley Street, Glasgow

#### Present

**Working Group:** Colin Borland; Susan Lowes; Mandy Rhodes; Michelle Cullis; Will Dinan; Kirsty Peebles; Margaret Smith; Phil Morgan;

**Officials:** Dougie Wands; James Drummond; Jo Kendall; Fiona Sinclair; Linda Peters

**Apologies:** Jenny Bloomfield; Brian Simpson; Gary Dunion; Matthew Revett; Sherry Perreault; Ian Mackay

**1. Apologies/Guests:** Dougie thanked Colin for hosting the meeting at the FSB offices and passed on the apologies for those unable to attend the meeting.

**2. Code of Conduct for those lobbying MSPs:** A second draft of the code was discussed, following suggested edits from the previous meeting. These changes were agreed.

Additional minor changes were suggested and agreed to the bullet points of the principles of lobbying.

Dougie also explained the formal process for submitting parliamentary guidance to the Scottish Ministers via the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SPPA). He further explained that the Code of Conduct would be presented at the same committee meeting (16 November) to provide SPPA with full sight of documents that have been produced.

**3. Draft Parliamentary Guidance (Status of Scottish Law Officers):** Dougie updated the group on the status of Scottish Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General). It had been confirmed that as members of the Scottish Government, both could be lobbied under the Act.

Updates to the guidance would be made ahead of Dougie's appearance at the SPPA Committee.

**4. Familiarisation Period:** James and Jo provided the group with an update on the numbers of registrations and information returns submitted since the website was made available for the familiarisation period.

Discussion took place regarding submissions received so far and the content included within information returns.



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The lobbying register team explained its approach to providing feedback to registrants including testing whether particular information returns related to regulated lobbying. The group made suggestions about how improved clarity of guidance may help registrants when these are submitted.

**5. Media Strategy:** Linda provided an update on the media and communications work being done to raise awareness of the Act.

It was also noted that the media strategy from January would focus on promoting that message that the Act is coming into force and the need to register.

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