



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**

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6 February 2015

Dear Joe

Please find attached a copy of the Committee's report putting forward a *Proposal for a register of lobbying activity*.

The Committee has undertaken a substantial amount of work in this complex area to produce clear evidence based proposals. These are today receiving wide support from stakeholders and the recommendations hold cross party support in the Committee. I will forward all social media comments and associated press releases from organisations to you in due course.

The report seeks to strike the correct balance between setting out sufficient information to explain the basis of the Committee's proposals, and being so restrictive as to remove the scope for valuable further consultation on the detail. However, should there be any areas of the report where more background is required on the Committee's thinking, please feel free to contact me or invite your officials to contact the lead clerk for this inquiry, Roz Thomson.

The Committee's focus is now moving to scrutiny of the Government's legislation. The Committee has undertaken what can reasonably be considered in-depth pre-legislative scrutiny and of course will now not be involved again at a policy level until the Government introduces its bill.

However, separate to this, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body has taken a keen interest in this policy proposal and, understandably, will want to be kept closely informed at the stages of policy development which would lead to additions to the roles and responsibilities of the Parliament and the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life. It would also want to be consulted in any process that assessed the level of additional work and the associated costs for the Parliament.

The Committee considers that this legislation is an opportunity for the Parliament and Government to collaborate to positive effect, to notably increase the transparency around lobbying activity. We appreciate the Government's assurances in this regard and urge you to give our proposals close and careful consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stewart Stevenson MSP  
Convener  
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee