



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Room TG.01
EDINBURGH
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6 February 2015

Dear Tricia

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

The Committee looks forward to receiving the Corporate Body's comments on the recommendations that are specifically for its consideration.

I would also wish to draw the SPCB's attention to the emphasis in the report on the need for the Scottish Government to work closely with the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body on any legislative proposals that would impact on Parliamentary resources or policies. These include IT development, launch of the register and ongoing staff costs for upkeep of the register.

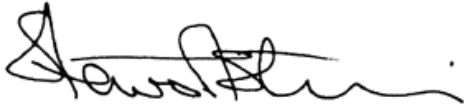
Finally, although the compliance regime is being proposed as part of the set of proposals to the Government, the SPCB may wish to comment on:

- the balance of roles and responsibilities set out for Standards Clerks and the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life; and
- the proposed Parliamentary sanctions proposed for organisations required to register that do not comply.

In considering these elements of the compliance regime, please note that the Committee envisages a proportionate approach with an emphasis on educating organisations and assisting them in correcting unintended transgressions. The system is designed to promote information-sharing and co-operation from organisations as opposed to seeking to punish unnecessarily.

I fully appreciate that this multi-faceted set of proposals may take a number of considerations by the SPCB and I would not anticipate legislation coming forward from the Government until after the Summer Recess. Therefore please just respond when in a position to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Stevenson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stewart Stevenson MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee